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**VOLUME 34 ISSUE 03** 

#### **FEATURES**

#### 65 | EDDIE REDMAYNE

Less than a year after his Best Actor win for The Theory of Everything, the 33-yearold has undergone another transformation, portraying the transgender pioneer Lili Elbe in The Danish Girl, a risky role that's already sparked both scrutiny and Oscarrepeat buzz. Think the classically trained Londoner is nervous? Actually, yeah, maybe a little. By David Walters

#### 72 | SMALL WONDERS—THE 8 COOLEST MICRO-NEIGHBORHOODS IN THE WORLD

In every city, there's that one white-hot area awash in awe-some restaurants, bars, shops, and sights. In other words, the perfect place to spend the day if you had only one day in town. From Tokyo to Tel Aviv, here are the best little destinations around the globe.

#### 90 | WELCOME TO THE HOTEL CALIFORNIA

Looming over the heart of Skid Row for nearly a century, the Hotel Cecil has hosted Satanists, suicides. and serial killers and inspired American Horror Story. Now one developer is betting on its becoming L.A.'s newest hipster hostel. Does the most deathly address in America really have a second life ahead? By Molly Oswaks

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Winter is coming, and the best way to ward off the cold is with a mix of comfy basics —sweaters, cords, tweeds—from the top names in menswear. Photographs by Ben Weller

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A fine wool suit, sporty sneakers, sophisticated watches, even a fur trapper hat—everything you need to be everyone's favorite Secret Santa this holiday season. Photographs by Lionel Koretzsky

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Edgar Ramirez trained for *Point Break* with a mix of CrossFit, Pilates, and yoga—because if you're going to play Bodhi in the remake of a classic, you can't just skate (or surf) through the preparation.



COVER Photograph by Paul Wetherell. Styling by Dan May. Clothing by Saint Laurent by Hedi Slimane.

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The BOGLIOLI Autumn/Winter 2015/16 menswear collection draws on BOGLIOLI's traditions in tailoring, while modernizing the silhouette and notable fit of their designs. The shades, colors, and details of the collection bring the understated and humbled elegance of the Milanese bourgeoisie of the 60's and 70's to light. Every piece communicates a measured yet strong style and a confidence in men's dressing that expresses beauty effortlessly.

SHOP THE COLLECTION AT // SHOP.BOGLIOLI.IT

#### DRIVE

#### THE ITALIAN STANDARD

The 4C Coupe is built from the richness of its past but moves through the boldness of the men who live and create today. We featured chef Fabio Viviani, actor Peter Facinelli, and comedian Chris D'Elia who embody excellence, performance, and innovation in their fields. From the chef's kitchen to the big screen, their heritage is the soul of their story, wherever it may lead, and Alfa Romeo is taking them there.

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#### DETAILS X COACH

DETAILS Fashion Director Matthew Marden hosted a private in-store event at COACH's SoHo store to celebrate the DETAILS X collaboration. The stylish crowd mingled and shopped alongside some of DETAILS favorite influencers and Style Syndicate members Ian Bradley, Daniel Seung Lee, Anthony Urbano, Isaac Hindin-Miller and Justin Livingston. Notable guests included: DJ Brendan Fallis, models River Viiperi, Jason Morgan, Parker Hurley and more.

1. RIVER VIIPERI + GUEST 2. BRENDAN FALLIS 3. ANTHONY URBANO, ISAAC HINDIN-MILLER, JUSTIN LIVINGSTON,
DANIEL SEUNG LEE + IAN BRADLEY 4. PARKER HURLEY + GUEST 5. ROBERTO SIPOS + JASON MORGAN
6. LIMITED EDITION DETAILS X COACH BACKPACK



2

3

4

5

6













1 / Ben Weller PHOTOGRAPHER. "NATURAL SELECTION," P. 80

Rehind the scenes: "On the south coast of England, the weather included all four seasons in one day. We set out to try to complement the mood of the clothes." Go-to outfit: "RRL shirt, A.P.C. jeans, Redwing boots, Carhartt jacket." Hidden talent: "I do a mean impression of Donald Duck." Digital platform: Instagram-@benwellerstudio Bona fides: Weller's still photography has appeared in WSJ magazine

#### 2 / David Walters

and various editions

of Vogue.

WRITER, COVER STORY: EDDIE REDMAYNE, P. 65

Behind the scenes: "Eddie's an incredibly nice person, so I was hoping to trick him into saying something terrible about someone . . . anyone, really. No dice." Off the clock: "I'm preparing to become a father in February, so I spend a lot of my time wondering where I'm going to put things like cribs." Can't live without: "My Timex for J. Crew Andros watch." Hidden talent: "I can speak exclu-

sively in movie lines.

People tend to hate this talent."

Current obsession: "Lucky Dog's Dia Del Perro hot sauce. Trust me "

Next big purchase: "A weekend at the Rosewood Mayakoba in Mexico."

Digital platform: Instagram-@daviddwalters Rona fides: Walters is Details' entertainment director.

#### 3 / Dan May STYLIST, "NATURAL SELECTION," P. 80

Behind the scenes: "We wanted to highlight that bohemian feel of the season's collections. It's quite thrown together, which I like."

Culture fix: "Recently saw the Ai Weiwei show at the Royal Academy of Arts. Any act of defiance by the authorities only served to heighten awareness of his art." Can't live without:

Hidden talent: "I was a decent rugby player in my youth in England." Digital platform: Instagram-@mrmay1

"My Stan Smiths."

Bona fides: May is a contributing style director for Mr Porter.

#### 4 / Richard Morgan WRITER, "HOW HIGH IS

YOUR BI-Q?" P. 36 Behind the scenes:

"As a gay journalist, I've loved writing about things that

become auickly anachronistic because the culture advances so rapidly." Go-to outfit: "I'm the least fashionable person I know. I'm the least fashionable person a lot of people know." Culture fix: "I have been addicted to Empire ever since Terrence Howard straight-face uttered the line, 'Come on, Barack, you know vou don't have to use that kind of language." **Guilty pleasure:** "Straight guys." Digital platform: Websitecharmandrigor.com Bona fides: Morgan, who also writes for The Economist. Gawker, and The New

#### 5 / Craig Cutler PHOTOGRAPHER. "SMALL WONDERS-THE 8 COOLEST MICRO-**NEIGHBORHOODS IN** THE WORLD," P. 72

Yorker, recently pub-

lished the memoir

Born in Bedlam.

Behind the scenes: "My producer tracked down a professional Lego builder to create a city that combined Edward Hopper's paintings and Fritz Lang's Metropolis."

Culture fix: "The New York City Ballet's Swan Lake. I was fascinated with the athleticism and stamina of the dancers." Listening to on repeat: "Deerhunter's 'Snakeskin.'" Can't live without: "Paul Smith socks." Digital platform: Instagram-@craigcutlerstudio Bona fides: Cutler's work has appeared in The New York Times Magazine, Esquire, and National Geographic.

#### 6 / Mickey Rapkin

WRITER, "BRETT RATNER'S SECOND ACT." P. 38

Behind the scenes: "At noon on his 40th birthday, Ratner decided to have a dinner party that same night. He called Warren Beatty, Mick Jagger, Al Pacino, and Eddie Murphy. They all came!" Culture fix: "The Clasp is about three twentysomethings who have no idea what they want. Come for the humor. stay for the emotional wreckage." Can't live without: "A Steven Alan slubpocket tee." Digital platform: Instagram-

@mickeyrapkin Bona fides: Rapkin, a regular contributor to Details, is the author of Pitch Perfect and writes frequently for Elle and Bon Appétit.





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THE PURSUIT OF PERFECTION



BY BRET BEGUN, JOSH CONDON, MATT DUCKOR, KEVIN PIRES, JON ROTH, AND DAVID SWANSON



#### Say Hi With **Something Sparkling**

"It's extremely important that every guest be treated with a drink as soon as they walk in the door," says nightlife impresario Paul Sevigny, who's been entertaining New York scenesters since 2013 as owner of the club Paul's Baby Grand. He suggests Segura Viudas; its Brut Reserva is a citrusy sparkling wine from Spain that, at \$9 a bottle (finewine house.com), you can pour without worrying that this will be the last party you'll ever be able to finance.

RULE 2

A spread from Épicerie Boulud.

#### Leave It to the Pros

You want to be a good party host? Then *be* at your party, not in the kitchen meticulously bacon-wrapping dates. This holiday season, put down the roasting pan, fire up your iPad, and hire a pro to cater your affair—whether you're eating Cajun at a rager in New Orleans or recovering from one in New York City.

#### **CAJUN RAGER**

If you like your meat wrapped in meat (and why wouldn't you), try the boudin-stuffed turkey or iambalayastuffed chicken from Donald Link's Cochon Butcher in New Orleans or Nashville. From \$25 per person; cochonbutcher.com

#### GAME-DAY GOURMET

Invite buddies over for a bowl-game blowout and load up on Parm's Italian sandwiches. It won't matter whether your team wins if you've got one of their 12 ice-cream cakes. From \$185 for 12 people (not including cake); parmnyc.com

SUNDAY BRUNCH Brisket on rve? So stale Romanouskas' Delicatessen in Austin livens things up with a smoked-beef sandwich (potato roll) or a smoked-chicken option (schmaltz roll). From approx. \$10 per person; craftmeatsaustin.com

#### CHRISTMAS DINNER

Énicerie Boulud Daniel Boulud's New York City retail market, bears gifts way better than Santa's, with black-truffle-roasted capon, salmon coulibiac, and grass-fed beef Wellington. From approx. \$40 per person; epicerieboulud.com

#### CHINESE BANQUET

Kung Pao Pastrami, Stir Fried Pork Jowls: Danny Bowien's Mission Chinese Food menu (at the San Francisco location) awaits adventurous eaters. Don't forget to add a Tingly Lamb Face Noodle Soup. From approx. \$20 per person; missionchinesefood.com

#### **Get Them Bumping**

The dance floor "doesn't have to be more than seven or eight feet by seven or eight feet," Sevigny says. "Actually, the smaller, the better, to keep the energy up. Even at large clubs, dance floors are pretty small these days." >



# WORTH ITS WEIGHT IN PLATINUM.

Gran Patrón Platinum starts with the finest Weber Blue Agave, hand-selected for the highest sugar content. It's then distilled three times and rested in oak, making it extraordinarily smooth, with a clean, full-bodied taste.





RULE 4

#### Punch It Up

If you throw a holiday party and there's no punch, did it even happen? The new Dead Rabbit Drinks Manual devotes two chapters to the stuff, so you never have to contemplate that koan. Jack McGarry, co-owner of the New York City bar, says: "You can pre-prepare a punch and have it sitting in the refrigerator. Just make sure to add a bit more sugar if you're going to serve it hot, so the sweetness carries through." McGarry and co-owner Sean Muldoon recommend this bracing rum variation (page 72).

# THE ONE TO MAKE AT HOME G.M. Gurton's Punch

Serves 8

In a large bowl, muddle together the zest from 8 limes and 13 tablespoons (plus 1 teaspoon) of sugar to release the citrus oil.

Pour in 2 ounces of ginger syrup, 8 ounces of freshly squeezed lime juice, and 4 ¼ cups of hot green tea; stir until the sugar is dissolved.

Add 10 ounces each of Cognac and dark rum, plus 7 ounces of Oloroso sherry. Stir to combine, then strain through a fine-mesh sieve into a punch bowl.

Serve hot or over ice with freshly grated nutmeg.



#### "I Love Lamp"

Overhead lights "kill the spontaneity of a room, the strangeness," says Stephen Alesch, principal at Roman and Williams, the interior-design firm responsible for some of the moodiest restaurants and hotels in the country (including the new Chicago Athletic Association). Here's Alesch's advice on how to get weird.

#### A/ EMBRACE THE IMPERFECTION

Not every inch of your apartment needs a spotlight on it—you're not looking for a fugitive. "We like pools of light—neglected areas are fine," Alesch says. "Safety is the enemy of romance."

#### B/ MORE IS MORE

To create those pools, go nuts on table lamps—all on dimmers. When Alesch entertains at his cottage in Montauk, he says, he has about 25 light sources in his living room, which is about 15 by 18 feet.



#### Raise the Right Glass

When tasting champagne, professionals typically use wineglasses: Coupés and flutes are classic, but they're not actually good for expressing flavor profiles. That's why Riedel created a new shape just for sipping the fizzy stuff. The Champagne Wine Glass (\$69 for a set of two; riedelusa.net, and see page 25), which looks more like something you'd drink white wine from, was designed to channel champagne's dry, toasty character.



#### How You Play Music Is as Important as What You Play

"If it's my own party, I

don't always DJ," says Questlove. (The Tonight Show musical director regularly invites hot chefs to cook for him and his VIP pals: he collected conversations for the forthcoming book Somethingtofoodabout: Exploring Creativity With Innovative Chefs.) "I need to unhook my own brain to have fun, so it's more about a playlist: Bill Withers, Michael Jackson, Prince. But if I am DJ'ing, I'm running psychological experiments. Sometimes I'll bring the mood down almost to a whisper and then blow it all up again. Sometimes I'll keep people up at fever pitch for a while, just to see how long bodies can go without giving in. It's somewhere between party planning and the kind of reeducation that Alex gets in A Clockwork Orange."

#### **Adopt a Shoes-On Policy**

"We don't live in Japan. If you're worried about your floors, then your floors are nicer than they should be. It's like getting in somebody's car and all the seats are covered in plastic. Also, what if the shoes are key for the guest for their look?"

—Bronson van Wyck, cofounder of Van Wyck & Van Wyck, an event-plannin<mark>g company</mark> that caters to New York Cit<mark>y socialites</mark>

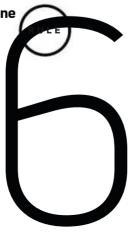
# O It's Winter. Decorate With White.

Holiday decor should feel organic to the season. And what works better than white when there's snow? Interior designer Nate Berkus suggests white roses in brass vases. Ryan Korban, also an interior designer, agrees: "I don't like anything that feels themed. Some cultures think that white has to do with death, but other cultures say you're supposed to fill your house with white because it's linked to prosperity. I can kind of take that stance

when it comes to flowers."

#### Don't Let the Protein Determine Your Wine Pairing

Red with meat, white with fish? That's too simplistic; the truth is, the protein shouldn't necessarily be your focus, says Brahm Callahan, master sommelier and beverage director for Himmel Hospitality Group, which includes restaurants like Grill 23 and Harvest in Boston. "The protein is almost the last thing I consider in a pairing," he says. "I work backwards from the accompaniments, which often have dominant flavor profiles. So be sure to consider vegetables, sauces, herbs, powerful spices. And when in doubt, Grüner Veltliner goes with everything."





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TIME IS THE ESSENCE WE ARE MADE OF

HOME IMPROVEMENT

It's the room you spend the most time in, from your morning coffee to your midnight snack. Here, five ways to make it the most stylish one.



#### Add a Pop of Color

IF YOU'RE STICKING WITH A MINIMALIST palette of white, black, and grays for your counters, tiles, and large appliances (still a major trend, by the way), make a bold statement with smaller pieces. Be it the best mixer on the market (left), Vitamix's newest blender, or a retro toaster (both, right), a vibrant accent elevates and energizes an otherwise utilitarian space.



#### Upgrade Your Essentials

You reach for these tools every day, so why not have the very best?

- c2 Copper-Clad 8-Quart Stockpot (\$630) by All-Clad; bloomingdale<u>s.com</u>
- 2 Marble Trivet (\$96) by Fort Standard; fortstandard.com
- 3 Modern Rolling Pin (\$80) by Vermont Rolling Pins; vermont rollingpins.com
- 4 Kitchen Apron (\$76) by Studiopatró; studiopatro.com
- 5 Tenmoku Cutting Board (\$202) by John Boos; johnboos.com
- 6 7-inch Santoku Knife (\$90) by Gunter Wilhelm; gunterwilhelm.com
- 7 Porcelain Measuring Spoons (\$17) by Fishs Eddy; fishseddy.com
- Long Resin Dew Salad Servers (\$105) and Large Resin Salad Bowl (\$255) by Dinosaur Designs; dinosaurdesigns.com
- Citrus Juicer (\$25) by Chef'n; williamssonoma.com
- A Artisan Series 5-Quart Tilt-Head Stand Mixer (\$350) by KitchenAid; kitchenaid.com
- B S30 Personal Blender (\$399) by Vitamix; vitamix.com
- C Two-Slice Toaster (\$150) by Smeg; westelm.com

#### Take Some Advice From the Pros

Four top chefs on the kitchen tools they can't live without.



JEREMIAH STONE AND FABIAN VON HAUSKE OF CONTRA AND WILDAIR IN NEW YORK CITY

"We use a Breville stainless juicer for making sauces and dressings, be it out of grilled cabbage or raw carrots. It doesn't take up much space, and it's very useful. Also, a salad spinner—ours is a metal one from OXO—is a great tool people don't really think about. It's very hard to dress anything when it's wet."



BOBBY FLAY OF GATO AND BAR AMERICAIN IN NEW YORK CITY

"Definitely a **zester**. A lot of times, guys will buy a lemon to make cocktails, and they'll forget about the zest. Use the zest. It's free—it comes with the lemon!

"Also, there's nothing like a **cast-iron pan.** Get one that's at least 10 or 12 inches. I use mine to crust meats and fish, get a great sear on vegetables, and bake cornbread and hash browns.

"Finally, a really thick cutting board. If the cutting board is too flimsy, it doesn't make your cutting experience as much fun. You should have a couple of different boards—a plastic one for chicken and a wooden one for everything else."



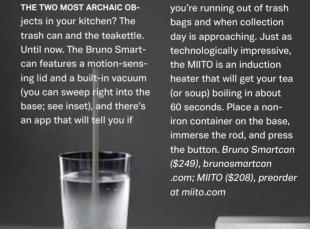
MAGNUS NILSSON OF FÄVIKEN IN JÄRPEN, SWEDEN

"Buy a good knife and sharpen it on a stone every day. I don't use chef knives at all. I use a **long**, **narrow slicer** for slicing, and for everything else I use a **paring knife**. Your most important knife is the slicer"



## Give In to the Dark Side

WATCH A COUPLE OF EPISODES OF House Hunters and you'll realize quickly that stainless steel and granite-Ooh, look, honey!have become default musthaves and, thus, a little clichéd. Stand out from the masses and inject some serious sex appeal with KitchenAid's first-ever line of black stainless appliances, like this three-door refrigerator, which is also available in a twoor five-door version. Or go full out by adding the matching dishwasher and oven. From \$1,499; kitchenaid.com



**Invest in High-Tech Tools** 



BY JOSH CONDON



#### IN THE ANNALS OF CINEMATIC FORE-

play, there are few greater scenes than Pierce Brosnan's tandem glider flight with Rene Russo in 1999's The Thomas Crown Affair. Russo shrieks, giggles, and gasps—and that's before Brosnan hands her his joystick. (In the 1968 original, Steve McQueen flies solo while Faye Dunaway gazes up from the ground—but where's the fun in that?) Today, you don't need to be a bored billionaire to squire a lady around the skies. Meet the Icon A5, a new and lustworthy aircraft that's both easy to fly and easy to own. At \$189,000, it costs less than some SUVs, and the 20 hours of training time is about half that required for more conventional aircraft. Like a Porsche 911, this two-person propeller plane is meant

more for recreation than for transportation—and it looks the part, with aggressive lines and a clean, intuitive cockpit (vice president of design Klaus Tritschler is a BMW alum). It can take off from water or any stretch of suitably flat land. travels more than 420 nautical miles on a single tank of unleaded gasoline, can be stored in a large garage (the wings fold up and back), and has advanced safety features like an anti-spin airframe to keep you aloft and—if all else fails—even its own full-plane parachute. It's only FAA-approved for clear weather during daylight hours-but we're confident you'll have better things to do after dark.



HOW I GOT MY BODY

### Édgar Ramírez

The 38-year-old Venezuelan actor pulls his box-office weight this Christmas, starring in a remake of the nineties surf-heist classic *Point Break* (and in David O. Russell's *Joy*). Pro tip: If you're going to fill Patrick Swayze's wet suit, you'd better take it to the extreme.

#### "I HAVEN'T ALWAYS THOUGHT

about it this way, but many characters I've played have been quite physical. I spent two months in military boot camp for my first movie, [the 2004 Venezuelan film] Punto y Raya. I played an assassin in The Bourne Ultimatum and a special-forces agent in Vantage Point. Even in Joy, I got to do something I've never done before. I can't spoil it, but I flexed some different muscles. I've only done heavy weight lifting for one movie, Wrath of the Titans, because I needed to become a Greek god in five weeks and because the armor weighed 15 pounds!

"I play Roberto Duran in [2016's] Hands of Stone, so I became a boxer. I underwent the same preparation as any amateur fighter. People think boxing is in the fists, but it's not. You start with the feet—months and months of just feet. When you throw a punch, if your ankle is not well positioned, then you're not going to have the strength you need in the arm. Duran

fought as a lightweight, so I had to lose 20 pounds. I trained with Panamanian coaches in the slums he came from. His sons took me to the attic of a furniture store—five flights up, there's a ring. The guys there don't care that you're an actor. They were told, 'Teach this guy to fight.' I couldn't go to a fancy gym for that. I'm a peaceful guy, but training that way changes the way you walk down the street, knowing you can give a good combination and sit someone on his ass.

"I was still in fighting shape when we started *Point Break*, and what I'd learned about balThey all build on each other. But at the same time, I wanted to create a body for Bodhi that was different, because he has a more functional training mixed with CrossFit, Power Pilates, and yoga. Laird Hamilton taught me tow-in surfing, which is when you're towed out to the wave by a Jet Ski. Now, regardless of how much you try, you can't just become a big-wave surfer. That's not going to happen. But it's good to be in the water—to understand the philosophy and the Zen of it.

"I just wrapped Gold in Thailand with Matthew McConaughey. He's also very committed to his characters, physically—and he had to get big for this one, so he ate whatever he wanted. He'd be sitting there having a big bowl of Bolognese while I was eating my tuna salad, and I would think, You asshole."



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#### IT'S THE SORT OF SCENE THAT'S BECOMING INCREASINGLY COMMON IN PRO-

gressive precincts: A group of guys at the bar of a New York City restaurant are watching an early-season Washington Wizards game when the broadcast flashes to an exterior shot of the White House. "Did you hear what John Wall had the balls to say?" one dude, who's out and proud, asks, referring to the Wizards' star point guard. "That Justin Bieber would beat Obama in hoops? Ouch." Next, another attempts to ascend the ladder of modern masculinity: "Everybody talks about Obama's #lovewins moment—but you know he wouldn't even have come out in favor of same-sex marriage if Biden hadn't done it first and forced his hand." The group

nods. Respect is given—all the more so because the knowledge-dropper is a flaming heterosexual.

It's hardly news that gay and straight men can be as indistinguishable in speech and outlook as they are in appearance, but there's something else at work here: good-natured jostling for alpha status that's driven by empathy rather than machismo. The familiar elements of worldly sophistication—fashion, food, pop and Establishment culture, travel, and fitness—have been joined by sexual identity. And here's the kicker: not just your own sexuality. Everyone is someone else's Caitlyn Jenner. Call it your Bi-Q, the degree to which your cultural intelligence crosses the sexuality divide—or simply call it the measure of a modern renaissance man.

Take Chris Hobbs, 36, a gay philanthropy adviser in Washington, D.C., and a thick-and-thin UNC Chapel Hill sports fan who looks up the alma mater of folks he meets professionally and, in his words, "bros out with them" if they went to an ACC school; and David Cook, 26, a straight marketing manager in San Francisco, who credits his bisexual roommates for his discovery of Alden plain-toe boots in smooth tobacco chamois, which have won him compliments on dates with women. Then there's Michael Lucas, 36, a straight EMT in Denver who bonds with his gay coworkers by suggesting they check out his new website, which is in reality the online home of his gay-porn-star namesake. *Sike*.

"We're living in a more open, more shareable culture," Cook says. "It's almost like being bilingual," says Hobbs, "but it's not dueling interests—

it's just me." Increasingly, we are expected to be fluent in both Tom Brady's and Tom Ford's universes. "Jay Z taught me all about Tom Ford," jokes Hobbs, who spends his free time playing flag football (in a gay league that was cofounded by a straight guy).

"Those boxes that you could justifiably put groups in back in the eighties or nineties have just crumbled," says Gary Gates, research director at the UCLA School of Law's Williams Institute, an LGBT and gender-identity think tank. "Everything is a lot messier now, which is good." Bi-Q reflects the complexity: Equal parts intellectual universalism and common decency, it is predicated on thinking outside your cultural comfort zone and communicating beyond your own tribe's patois. As with IQ or EQ (emotional IQ), the *Q* represents an important quotient, a measure of biaxial, bicameral,

bipartisan, bilateral thinking. You can have high or low Bi-Q, but unlike with IQ, you have complete control. You're not condemned to be Tim Allen or Tim Gunn forever.

The value of cultural outreach isn't new or unique to Bi-Q—ask any Western businessman who practices his "xiexie" and chopsticks before meeting his counterparts in Shanghai—but now it's affecting (and erasing) the gay-straight divide. Identity politics may suffer, but a lot is gained. In fact, having a finger's worth of knowledge in multiple pies gives you currency in cocktail-party conversations, brainstorming sessions, and dinner-guest gabfests. Think of it as being a kind of "chilletante."

Mensa-level Bi-Q, if you aren't one yourself. Actors are paid to channel others, but their credibility while playing in another sexual sandbox can be traced to their Bi-Q. Neil Patrick Harris, who is married to a man, can go from an Emmynominated scotch-swigging womanizer to a Tony-winning transgender East German rocker. Hugh Jackman, who is married to a woman, can glide from playing Peter Allen on Broadway to Wolverine in Hollywood and is baller enough to admit he passed on the role of James Bond. And James Franco, who isn't married, can do . . . well, his whole thing.

Chances are you already know men with

And if you don't think that's an asset, just consider the flubs and subsequent public floggings: Matt Damon suggesting gay actors stay closeted and keep their sexuality to themselves (he later clarified his comments on *Ellen*: "I was just trying to say actors are more effective when they're a mystery"), or Kanye West saying he was "discriminated against in fashion . . . for not being gay" while ostensibly decrying homophobia in the rap world. Whoops. It's not just about acceptance of gays, either. You'd look foolish if you celebrated Jason Collins or Michael Sam but had no clue what positions they played or whether, you know, they were any good.

If gay athletes and gay marriages have changed the rules, did we really think that could happen without a learning curve? We're riding the ups and downs together more now. Gay bars are either sports-themed or just dives where bachelorette parties feel welcome. Stephen Colbert

makes Grindr jokes on *The Late Show*. The academic book *Not Gay: Sex Between Straight White Men* was singled out for praise by *Vice*. These days, "bro" is as much of a slur as "'mo."

"God bless the Ted Haggards and Larry Craigs of the world, because now homophobia is kinda gay," says Dan Savage, who has served as a barometer of straight-gay conversations for decades through his sex-advice column, "Savage Love." "There's a new emerging default of neutrality. It's a talismanic marker of heterosexuality: If you're homophobic, you're either a closet case or an asshole—and nobody wants to be either."

In a comical irony, those with high Bi-Q can discover the dark side of their crossover appeal. "Being so approachable and relatable can be a liability," Hobbs says, joke-explaining: "Now I'm a closet introvert."

## How High Is Your Bi-Q?

Forget Mensa.
Increasingly, the measure of a renaissance man is how well he is able to speak knowingly across the sexuality divide. So showing off your straight smarts when you're gay (and vice versa) is about more than just being culturally inclusive—it's a shrewd status play.











# **Brett Ratner's Second Act**

At 46, Hollywood's most notorious bad-boy director has rebranded himself as a prestige producer with a half-billion-dollar highbrow slate. And when your money's where your mouth is, who needs a filter?





### "THESE ARE ALL ORIGINAL WOOD SHINGLES FROM

the twenties," Brett Ratner says, pointing to the roof of his five-bedroom stone-and-redwood home. It's a Friday afternoon in October, and Ratner is giving me a tour of his estate in Beverly Hills. The director of the *Rush Hour* franchise may have earned a reputation as Hollywood's last enfant terrible, but his crib looks like the subject of an *Elle Decor* shoot (which it has been). The kitchen is whiter than network TV. The vaulted living room houses a Rodin statue ("a gift from a very rich friend"), a Diane Arbus print, and a Giacometti sculpture. When his assistant

asks me to take my shoes off, I almost fall over.

The only naked women in this house are by Helmut Newton, which seems fitting, because, whether it's conscious or not, Ratner, now 46, is making a serious bid for respectability—and maybe even at establishing his artistic legacy. In 2012, he and his buddy James Packer, the Australian casino magnate, launched RatPac Entertainment, which in 2013 merged with Dune to form an ambitious production company that is laying out \$450 million to cofinance nearly the entire Warner Bros. slate. They're thinking globally, forming a joint venture with China's Shang-

hai Media Group to invest in Chinese-language entertainment. But more interesting are the kinds of films Ratner is targeting on a creative level. He's a maker of highbrow cinema dressed in hack's clothing.

It's hard to pinpoint the moment the public's perception of Ratner coalesced. What's safe to say is he didn't help himself when he admitted on *Howard Stern* in 2011 that he wouldn't sleep with his former girlfriend Lindsay Lohan until she got tested for STDs. ("Before I go all the way, I send the girl to the doctor and check them for everything," Ratner said.) Ratner's **CONTINUED** 



### → CONTINUED

house, Hilhaven Lodge, has a Hollywood pedigree—Ingrid Bergman owned it in the forties, and it once belonged to Allan Carr, who produced the movie *Grease* and the Broadway show *La Cage Aux Folles*, and who installed a mirrored disco downstairs. Ratner added his own party accessory: a vintage photo booth, where the likes of Michael Jackson, Warren Beatty, Britney Spears, and Chelsea Clinton have been caught in various degrees of silliness and sobriety. Ratner collected the black-and-white snaps in a book, *Hilhaven Lodge: The Photo Booth Pictures*. Of those wild house parties, he says, "I didn't give a shit! I had no furniture. I had a refrigerator and a bed. Now I have millions of dollars of art."

Even back in 2007 when he appeared on *Entourage*—playing himself, surrounded by scantily clad models—it all felt a little too facile. Hadn't he always been playing himself in an episode of *Entourage*? He dated Serena Williams for two years and wrote an article for *Variety* complaining about the lousy service they received in Cannes. Ratner, who also had a relationship with Naomi Campbell, admits he was complicit in the creation of his outsize reputation: "I went to every premiere. I was always dating models. My admiration was for the guys who really had fun while they were in Hollywood. It wasn't about getting laid. I'm not famous for some weird orgies. I don't think I'm a sexual deviant."

For Ratner haters, however, there was plenty of fodder, including the fact that he seemed to get too much too soon. Who was this kid from Miami Beach who talked his way into NYU, who went from making music videos for Heavy D to directing a studio feature film at 26? When he was 29, his buddy comedy Rush Hour earned \$141 million in North America (on a budget of just \$33 million). Roman Polanski loved the movie so much he called Ratner to compare notes. Two massive sequels followed, confirming his mainstream Midas touch. His X-Men: The Last Stand remains the franchise's installment with the highest domestic gross-a fact Ratner reminded the world of via Twitter in 2011 during a war of words with X-Men: First Class director Matthew Vaughn.

Ratner can now comfortably let the work speak for itself. RatPac-Dune is behind three of the past year's most inspired Oscar contenders: Johnny Depp's Whitey Bulger flick *Black Mass*; *Truth*, starring Robert Redford as Dan Rather; and Alejandro G. Iñárritu's \$135 million wilderness epic *The Revenant*, which may finally bring Leonardo DiCaprio an Academy Award. And it's no vanity outfit. Ratner gave *Black Mass'* director, Scott Cooper, notes on six different cuts of the film. Says Cooper: "I loved being in the trenches with Brett and would do it again in a heartbeat." Of his strength as a producer, Ratner says, "We don't micromanage. I don't want



"I WENT TO EVERY PREMIERE.
I WAS ALWAYS DATING
MODELS. MY ADMIRATION
WAS FOR THE GUYS WHO
REALLY HAD FUN WHILE
THEY WERE IN HOLLYWOOD."

someone on my fucking movies bothering me." Instead, he steps in when needed—whether to help clear the rights to music by his buddy Mick Jagger or to talk through an edit.

Ratner never did much to bridge the gulf between his earnest, ambitious professional self and his party-boy public persona. "Maybe I should have defended myself," he says. "But if I cared what people thought of me, I would be the most miserable person!" Yet his reputation may have put his partnership with Warner Bros. at risk. "Everybody called [the chairman and CEO] Kevin Tsujihara and said, 'How can you be doing this deal with Brett Ratner?' He was like, 'After I got to know you, I was shocked. You're the greatest guy.'" Ratner calls his business plan bold, not visionary: "RatPac wasn't a strategy. If Tarantino fell into \$450 million, he'd be doing the same thing for his crew." He points out that The Revenant got made only because "we put up most of the money." Modesty may not be his strong suit, but at least he's backing the right horses.

Ratner likes to talk about the high-end whiskey, Hilhaven, he'll launch in 2016, but it's worth noting he's never had a drink himself. Ever. "I never smoked pot, I never did drugs, I never had coffee—my whole life," he says. "When everyone else was experimenting, I was shooting little films." Further clouding his reputation is the matter of his roommate. He points to the guesthouse, where his 91-year-old grandmother lives.

"She's Cuban," he says. "Every party, she'd be the last one to leave. I'd say, 'Fanita, I'm going to sleep! There's two people in the living room.' She'd say, 'No, we're gonna stay up and talk.' She's friends with Hillary Clinton. Salma Hayek will come over for hours to speak with her." Ratner canceled an earlier interview date in order to take her to the doctor. "She's feeling great now," he says, apologizing again for rescheduling. "She's a baby about surgery!"

Calling a 91-year-old woman a baby is vintage, unfiltered Ratner. Of Relativity's Ryan Kavanaugh, whom Ratner is suing, he says bluntly, "He's a criminal." Of Serena Williams: "She's an amazing person. I probably should have had a baby with her. It would have been a super-Jew black baby with my curly hair." Of having kids: "I was telling my friend Johnny Pigozzi, if I'm 50 and I don't have a fucking kid, I'm taking my sperm, he's taking his sperm, and we're gonna mix it together and do what two gay guys do and impregnate somebody. I was pitching this to Elton John. Elton was like, 'I'm giving you my doctor's name.' He got so into it."

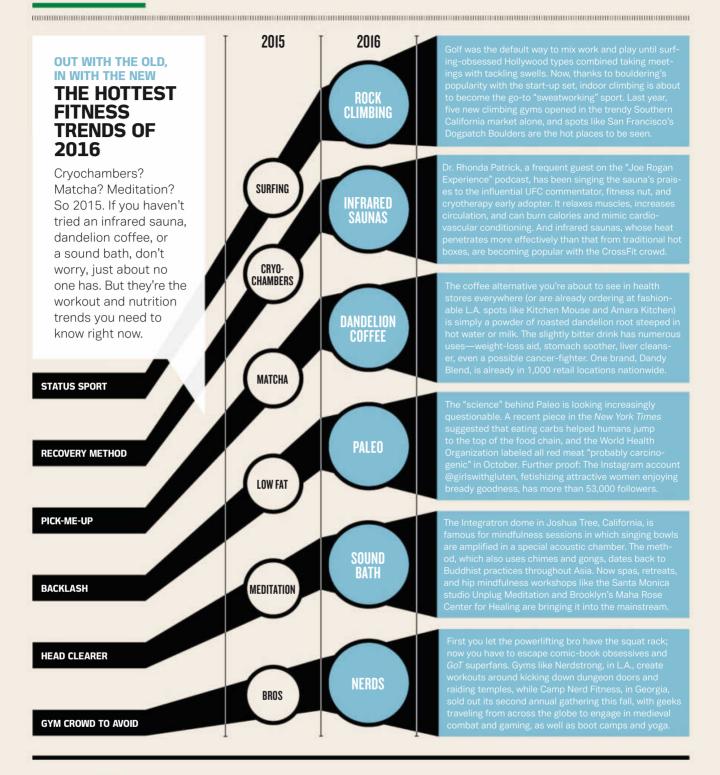
But that hi-def personality belies a blood-red beating heart. When you ask what unites his films *Rush Hour* and *Red Dragon* and even a silly caper like *Tower Heist*, he reminds you that they were all stories about relationships. If he loves telling tales about dinner parties at Hilhaven, it's because a part of him still can't believe his circle of friends includes his idols: Beatty, Jagger, and Pacino, to name a few. Currently, Ratner has another housemate, the iconic director Peter Bogdanovich, who's been living downstairs for the past seven months.

Bogdanovich is as in awe of Ratner as Ratner is of him. "Brett is very much a mensch," he says. "He's very focused. He gave me a list of all his projects. I said, 'How the fuck can you do it? Forty-two projects!' He's in the tradition of the older Hollywood moguls."

In the end, securing a place in the pantheon may be the greatest motivation for Ratner. If you doubt his obsession with film history, check out his basement stocked with memorabilia—from Robert Evans' Golden Globe for *Chinatown* ("He quasi gave it to me") to Polaroids from the set of *The Godfather* to a pair of Bruce Lee's nunchuks. He could spend all day going through it and probably would have if he weren't heading to Nashville for the premiere of *I Saw the Light*, the Hank Williams biopic he produced.

As we walk back upstairs, I ask when he'll direct again. "Everyone says, 'What are you, retired?' No, I'm not fucking retired!" he says, adding that he's currently deciding between two projects. He declines to elaborate, offering only this hint: "All of my contemporaries—Quentin Tarantino, Bryan Singer—have done movies where they get to kill Nazis. I have not done it yet." As I lace up my shoes, he hands me a copy of *The Photo Booth Pictures*. "You want me to sign that for you?"





A (Very)
Abridged
Gym-to-English
Dictionary
Terms to

Terms to know for the year ahead.

AMRAP adj. \'am-rap\
As Many Rounds As
Possible (repeating a
move as often as possible within a time limit).
Popular at: CrossFit
"Each set is 10 push-ups
and 20 air squats,
AMRAP-style. The time is
15 minutes. And ... GO!"

### **AFTERBURN**

noun \'af-ter-'bern\
A boost in metabolism
that lasts for hours after
a strenuous workout.

Popular at: Orangetheory
Fitness
"Keep that heart rate up
on the rowers if you want

the full afterburn."

POOD noun \'püd\
A Russian unit of
weight equal
to about 36 pounds.
Popular at: Kettlebell
class
"Dude's a beast—

"Dude's a beast— I saw him doing single-arm swings with a two-pood bell!"

### **ROOSTER SQUAD**

noun \rüs-ter 'skwäd\
The group attending the
earliest class of the day.
Popular at: SoulCycle
"I have to hit the sack.
I'm trying to make the
rooster squad tomorrow."

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**RETROSPECTIVE** 

# THE GREATEST CELEBRITY PROFILE OF ALL TIME

"FRANK SINATRA HAS A COLD," WHICH ESQUIRE PUBLISHED IN 1966, MIGHT BE THE BEST MAGAZINE STORY ever written. After all, how many others are the basis for a coffee-table book 50 years later? Taschen's look back at Gay Talese's profile—the author famously traveled to Los Angeles to interview OI' Blue Eyes, but he was sick and didn't want to talk—includes, in addition to the original story, his one-way correspondence with the star (Talese interviewed a constellation of attendants, like the woman who carried Sinatra's hairpieces), reproductions of manuscript pages with marginalia, his outline, and even the contacts he used for a previous Sinatra story written on a shirt board that he kept folded in his jacket pocket. The book (\$200; Talese signed all 5,000 copies) is illustrated with images by Phil Stern, Sinatra's official photographer, and photojournalists like John Dominis and Terry O'Neill, who snapped him when he was out and about—and was, presumably, feeling just fine. —Kevin Pires

From top: Sinatra at the Statler Hilton in Washington, D.C., in a previously unpublished 1961 photograph by Phil Stern; Talese's story outline; the reissue.





WE READ IT SO YOU

DON'T HAVE TO

Stories I Tell Myself: Growing Up With Hunter S. Thompson by Juan F. Thompson

To most, Hunter S. Thompson was a mad genius notorious for his drug-fueled romps into the dark heart of the American Dream. To Juan F. Thompson, he was simply Dad. Here, from his intense new memoir (Knopf, \$27), a sampling of Juan's experiences growing up gonzo. —Laura Bolt

### EARLY EXPOSURE

Hunter invited the Hells
Angels to a party Ken Kesey
was throwing. "Maybe hundreds of people in various
stages of undress.... At one
point, the Hells Angels gangraped a woman.... There I was,
maybe a year old, asleep in a
corner of one of the cabins."

### THE COLLEGE YEARS

Hunter paid for Juan to attend Tufts University, though usually not eagerly or on time. "The way he put it was..." [I]f I have to choose between cigarettes and whiskey or your tuition, I'm going to buy cigarettes and whiskey."

### FATHER OF THE GROOM

Hunter wore a white tuxedo and All Stars to Juan's wedding in 1994. "At one point... we asked our parents to come up and join us.... [Hunter] pulled Jennifer close and said, 'I never liked you anyway,' and gave her a squeeze... his way of saying he loved her."

### A TRAGIC END

As an adult, Juan bonded with Hunter over the ritual of maintaining Hunter's gun collection. "He took the .45 semiauto pistol from its place in the cabinet by his chair and handed it to me. I ejected the cartridge and . . . cleaned the barrel and breech. . . . It was the same gun . . . that he used to shoot himself the next day."



INTERVIEW BY BENJAMIN SVETKEY • PHOTOGRAPH BY BRIAN HIGBEE

# **Q:** A curious thing about your career: Your films are often better appreciated over time.

**A:** They become cult classics. You like to be part of something that's successful when it's supposed to be. I've had those experiences—Stargate and Backdraft—but more often, I've had the other: Escape From New York, Tombstone, Big Trouble in Little China, The Thing. This graphic Western I did, Bone Tomahawk, will be another. I think I'm attracted to movies that are ahead of their time.

# **Q:** Quentin Tarantino, the director of your other Western—The Hateful 8—is certainly ahead of his. He's also, by reputation, a bit volatile.

A: I've worked with him twice now, and, understandably, at times he's so jacked up about doing something good that when it's off because people are falling down on their responsibilities, he gets upset. It's like, "What's happening to this crew? I've handpicked every fuckin' pirate on this boat, we're going to pillage and plunder, and you're going to sleep on me?" But most people feel the way Quentin feels when they're working on his movies. He loves what he does so much it's contagious.

# **Q**: How involved were you in creating your bounty-hunter character's look?

A: The buffalo jacket and a big mustache were Quentin. It's a big look, a mustache wearing a man. I put a lot of stock in appearance. For Escape From New York, I worked with the designer on Snake Plissken. I thought the eye patch would be a good idea, so he'd show a slight pain in his eye at all times. I remember filming at night in St. Louis in 1980. I walked around a corner and there were four guys who

didn't know we were shooting a movie.

They saw me and said, "Whoa! Easy, man!"
I just stood there looking at them, and
they turned around!

## **Q**: As a teen in the 1960s, you were on contract at Disney. Was there a Disney-kid stigma?

**A:** Oh, absolutely. It was ridiculously unhip. Movies like *I* Am Curious (Yellow) were the shit, and I was doing *The Computer Wore Tennis Shoes*. Disney didn't give you the street cred of being an NYU actor. You don't look like a tortured artist coming out of Disney.

### Q: You spent time with Walt, right?

A: I used to play Ping-Pong, and Walt would eat in the commissary at a table looking out at the Ping-Pong table. He would come out and grab a paddle and we would play a little. I was also a serious baseball player at the time, and he once told me, "I know you're going to play ball, but you might decide this is the business you want to stay in." He was saying, "Open your eyes—there's something going on right in front of you that you shouldn't miss."

### Q. Were there any roles that got away?

A: The Mosquito Coast. Meryl Streep gave me the book and said, "This should be your next movie." When it came out, I said, "That's the one Meryl was talking about." They wanted me to do The World According to Garp, but I couldn't because had stuff going on in my life. An Officer and a Gentleman—I talked with Taylor Hackford about that. We were discussing the sex scenes, and he said he wanted to "go just beyond the bounds of good taste." That was enough for me to say no.

### O: You don't like sex scenes?

A: In my career, I've only done a couple of scenes in which there was open sexuality, and it was always a story point. I didn't find a story point in that one—they were just letting you know that people like to fuck. My problem with that is that everybody knows you're faking it. That's just not the way I work. Fake-fucking is tough. I did it once, in Unlawful Entry. [Laughs] That's a perfect title!

# **Q:**Your three-decade relationship with Goldie Hawn goes against everything people assume about monogamy in Hollywood.

A: That's a little overplayed. There are plenty of people in this town who have been together a long time. Goldie and I, we're just like everybody else. We have times when we're disappointed, angry, disillusioned, furious—and also loving, laughing, and having fun. Thirty-two years have gone by, and we continue to have our life. There's no secret to it, no book you can read.

### Q: As a libertarian, do you support Rand Paul?

**A:** I'm a supporter of the concepts of libertarianism. Unfortunately, I don't think the party has been able to get a candidate who can play the role. Years ago, being a libertarian in Hollywood was a little below being a Scientologist. Now it's a little above.

# **Q:** You're also a winemaker—apart from the obvious, what do you get from that?

A: I'd like for somebody to open a bottle of my wine in 30 or 40 years and say, "Wow, this is fantastic!" And I'd like somebody to watch one of my movies in 30 or 40 years and go, "Fuck, that's great!" It would be nice to know that both stood the test of time.



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### LEADING MEN

To celebrate the last 15 years, DETAILS threw the ultimate fête gathering all of our #fashionfam and friends of the magazine together in NYC. Complete with a custom installation by Snarkitecture, designer/DJ trio The Extortionists spun beats for our VIP crowd. Party goers enjoyed cocktails from The Macallan, DeLeón Tequila, and Peroni while getting an exclusive look at the new Alfa Romeo 4C Spider.

1. RJ KING + GUEST 2. TARIO TROTTER 3. THE ALFA ROMEO 4C SPIDER 4. LANCE BASS
5. JOSH STAMBERG, COREY STOLL + GUEST 6. ERIC RUTHERFORD
7. MAXWELL OSBORNE, IBE SOLIMAN + DAO-YI CHOW (THE EXTORTIONISTS)





THE GOOD NEWS? AT SOME POINT SOON, YOU'LL PROBABLY GET TIME OFF WORK. THE BAD NEWS?

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YOUR IN-LAWS. SO ACTIVATE THAT OUT-OF-OFFICE MESSAGE AND READ ON FOR OUR GUIDE TO WHAT

TO WEAR WHEN YOU CAN WEAR JUST ABOUT WHATEVER YOU WANT.

**OFF-DUTY ESSENTIALS** 

# **Outdoor Gear**

There's a reason the fleece pullover is popular: It's warm, comfortable, and easy to layer. It's also something of a victory for function over form—unlike the pieces you see here, which borrow their technical efficiency from classic adventure outfitters and add the considered aesthetic approach of a fashion label.



### MONCLER GRENOBLE PACKARD JACKET (\$1,760)

Traditional ski parkas can be hulking messes, so trade in the shell for this jacket; it wears like a fleece, but it's made of the kind of quality wool found in overcoats.

### WALLACE & BARNES BY J. CREW Wool Military Cargo Pants (\$168)

Oversize pockets and a fuller fit make "mil-spec" cargoes like these a favorite among snow-boarders—but this heavy wool version is strictly for the city.

### SNOW PEAK Middler down vest (\$280)

At first glance, it might look like there's no way to actually put on this vest, but that's only because the zipper is right on the seam, the kind of playful design tweak Snow Peak excels at.

### NANAMICA WIND FLEECE SHIRT (\$290)

The ultimate winter hybrid: part fleece, part wind-resistant, high-density cotton, with snaps and a zippered chest pocket that reference first-generation outdoor gear.



### LOUIS VUITTON COLORBLOCK JACKET (\$1,540)

Designer Kim Jones eschews the standard winter palette of navy, gray, and more gray for orange-red and khaki, and he cropped the coat's cut in the style of a fly-fishing jacket.

### PASKHO Urban Silence Pants (\$250)

With a gusseted crotch (like you'd find on climbing pants for added movement), a hidden elastic waistband, and zip pockets, these suit-trouser lookalikes do more than just desk duty.







### FICOUTURE Travel Backpack (\$295)

This pack has enough room to carry a weekend's worth of stuff, and the black-on-black nylon and leather put a tech-fashion twist on a piece of classic hiking gear.

### PATAGONIA Merino air Crew (\$129)

By weaving merino wool and recycled polyester into a seamless knit, Patagonia made a base layer in name only: You can wear it the same way you'd wear a light sweater.



### **ARC'TERYX VEILANCE**

# Taking high fashion to the great outdoors.

Vancouver-based outfitter Arc'teryx started out in 1991 designing harnesses for rock climbers. In 2009, the company launched Veilance, applying its expertise in outerwear for extreme conditions to menswear.

Today, the brand is a favorite of fashionable guys looking to stay warm and dry without sacrificing aesthetics (it's more Jil Sander than the North Facel. Think precision-cut overcoats; Gore-Tex Pro field jackets; and weatherproof blazers, all "unashamedly technical," says creative director Stephen Mann. Still, he says, be sensible. Just because you own a Gore-Tex parka doesn't mean it's a Gore-Tex parka kind of day. "Think about your life in New York, or London, or Tokyo," Mann says. "What protection do you need, and how can you bring it into your life in a way that feels authentic?"



OFF-DUTY ESSENTIALS

# The New Black Tie



Workwear as Formalwear

Just because you're at an elegant event doesn't mean you can't go blue-collar. A lightweight chambray shirt (no Western accents, cowboy) is dressed up with a bow tie. Maintain consistency with polished boots instead of dress shoes; they reinforce the workwear vibe.

Tuxedo (\$2,095) by **Boglioli**. Shirt (\$148) by **Albiate 1830 by J. Crew.** Bow tie (\$245) by **Brunello Cucinelli**.
Boots (\$895) by **Saint Laurent by Hedi Slimane**.



2 Beyond the Button-Down

A double-breasted suit with two buttons instead of four or six still gets you the dramatic silhouette, but without all the fussy hardware. The fabric-covered clasps keep things formal, while the black turtleneck carries home the minimalist approach.

Tuxedo (\$1,295) by **Z Zegna.** Turtleneck (\$260) by **Margaret Howell.** Sneakers (\$75) by **Adidas Originals.** Socks (\$8) by **Gold Toe.** 



3 | Explore the Lighter Side

Love a white sport coat but hate being confused with the waitstaff? Pair it with a neutral-colored shirt (not white or black) in a soft silk. Simple black dress shoes, without that plastic-looking shine, say, "No, I cannot get you another glass of champagne."

Blazer (\$4,700) by **Dior Homme.** Shirt (\$400) by **Duckie Brown.** Pants (\$930) and shoes (\$1,200) by **Hermès.** Socks (\$8) by **Gold Toe.** 

Galas, weddings, New Year's parties—there are a lot of reasons to wear a tuxedo this winter. But going totally traditional (bow tie, cummerbund, cuff links, patent-leather shoes) can feel more overdone than on-point. The new classics put personal style ahead of convention; here, five updates for getting fancy.



4

The Band Plays On

A band-collar shirt has an understated, futurist edge (reinforce it with a shawl lapel so it doesn't get overwhelmed), while Chelsea boots nod toward mod style. Both add a bit of rock and roll, but neither comes off as too costumey.

Tuxedo jacket (\$1,395) and pants (\$795) by **Burberry London.** Shirt (\$275) by **Officine Générale.** Boots (\$625) by **Tod's.** 



5

Put Some Blue in Your Black Tie

In a room full of matching tuxes, a navy jacket and shirt with black pants will stand out without standing out too much. If you're feeling a little nostalgic—this is the time of year for it, after all—the concealed placket references pleated tux shirts of the past.

Tuxedo jacket (from \$4,450 for full tuxedo) by Isaia. Shirt (\$365) by Hamilton. Pants (\$295) by Eidos Napoli. Shoes (\$895) by Christian Louboutin.

### TOM FORD

### Keeping formalwear fresh.

Few designers do formalwear like Tom Ford. whose tuxes translate effortlessly from runway to red carpet (see: Jon Hamm's blackand-navy suit at the Emmys, Ansel Elgort's silk notch-lapel jacket at the Met Gala). His latest collection takes black-tie style a step further, with op-artinspired shawl-collar jackets (below) and a checked-blazerturtleneck combo for a louche, sexv seventies vibe. Though you're likely only putting on a bow tie for a special occasion and not just milling about the apartment, Ford says, "the more you wear a tuxedo, the more comfortable you will be in it," so think about going big even when you're not going out.









# Sit Back, Relax, and Enjoy These Jeans

Raw denim? It'll make squeezing into a middle seat even less fun. These jeans are made from a cashmere-cotton blend that looks crisp without the stiffness. Add a modern field jacket, which will give you plenty of pockets for stashing your boarding pass and that not-at-all-annoying \$25 receipt for checking a bag.

Jacket (\$1,795) by Giorgio Armani. Shirt (\$410) by Sacai. T-shirt (\$46) by Alternative. Jeans (\$225) by Naked & Famous. Sneakers (\$169) by

### A Coat You'll Want to Keep On

This jacket is knit, not woven, so you'll feel like you're wrapped in a cardigan. Wear your shirt untucked and no one will know these pants have an elastic waist, a detail anyone in a pressurized cabin can appreciate.

Coat (\$1,200) by L.B.M. 1911. Shirt (\$195) by Hamilton. Pants (\$410) by Second/Layer. Sneakers (\$449) by Common Projects. Bag (\$1,995) by

### OFF-DUTY ESSENTIALS

# 1 Travelwear

Just because you're flying cross-country doesn't mean you have to be uncomfortable. But there's a fine line between being cozy and looking like you don't care. Above, two ways to get where you're going without looking like you forgot there'd be other people there when you arrived.

### **TOMAS MAIER**

### Leading the relaxed revolution.

Tomas Maier's take on understated luxury—his fall collection was characterized by jersey-cotton blazers (right), prewashed polos, leather bombers, and thick fleece hoodies—extends to his own travel uniform: his eponymous label's drawstring cotton pants, a T-shirt,

and a cashmere or merino cardigan or V-neck. His trick for elevating in-flight style? "One-color dressing," says Maier, who also packs a hoodie in case it gets cold. "Everything goes together, and even if it's a bit wrinkled and slept-in, it will still look good. Navy, gray, khaki, or even black are all easy colors for monochromatic dressing."





Are You Man Enough to

### Retrouvé Nutrient **Face Serum**

Retrouvé's slightly thicker formulas are especially effective for people over 40. This serum is the lightest: It's water-based and fragrance-free, and it stimulates cell turnover, something everyone could use help with as they age. \$460: retrouve.com

### Grown **Alchemist** Age-Repair **Eve Cream**

Grown Alchemist combines plant-based ingredients with facesavers like elastin and collagen that'll keep you from aging prematurely. This cream is rich in vitamins A and F. plus antioxidants to help fight wrinkles around the eyes (which any woman will tell you is one of the first places they pop up). \$69; b-glowing.com



### AS OUR IDEAS ABOUT GENDER BECOME MORE

fluid, aggressively male-oriented grooming products can actually make you look insecure (BuzzFeed recently mocked a grenade-shaped "bath bomb" packed with essential oils, saying, "How can I be expected to enjoy a fragrant, relaxing, rosemary-scented bath without simultaneously being reminded of the devastating lethal power of an explosive device?"). Which is why unisex skin-care lines —

pioneered by favorites like Malin + Goetz and Aesop and bolstered by new brands almost every month—feel much more now, less 2005.

Sure, there are physiological differences between genders. Dr. Terrence Keaney, an aesthetic dermatologist at W for Men in Washington, D.C., explains that higher testosterone levels make men's skin thicker (also sweatier, oilier, and hairier), so lightweight products feel better, like they're not even on your face. But some men have dry complexions, some women have oily ones, and "90 percent of people that walk through our door have normal to combination skin," says Malin + Goetz's Matthew Malin.

Unisex products hit the sweet spot between ultralight gels and heavy creams, fragrance-free and in packaging devoid of either flowers or flamethrowers. Above, three smart ways to gender-bend (without breaking).



### 3/ THE BLAZER

"This John Varvatos blazer is brilliant for travel because it can get all crumpled and you don't have to worry about it. It's actually got, like, a wire through [the lapel and cuffs] to hold a crumpled shape. I wear the shit out of it."

### 4/ THE SCARF

"I wear a lot of scarves. This is Paul Smith. I love all those images of Keith Richards from the seventies, eighties, nineties—he just looks so rock-and-roll, so androgynous and beautiful, and always a fucking scarf! The older you get, the simpler it should be. A scarf's a really nice way of adding a little flamboyance . . . but not too much."

### 5/ THE SWEATER

"This is a Tom Ford cashmere sweater with kind of a sweatshirt shape to it. The terrible truth about cashmere is that you get what you pay for. I have cheap cashmere sweaters that are done in a year. The really good ones last."

### 6/ THE WATCH

"I had a 1930s Patek
Philippe Calatrava that
kept breaking. On my 40th
birthday, my wife bought
me this new one. There's
nothing flash about it. It's
simple; you can wear it with
anything. It's my real piece
of luxury."

### 7/ THE BOOTS

"I'm a big boot guy. All my shoes come from Joseph Cheaney & Sons in London. They're over a hundred years old. I love the color of these—they're gorgeous. A bit more chic, more fitted than wearing a Timberland."

### 2/ THE JEANS

something."

"These are RRL. The problem with jeans is that they all look the same on the rack, so you have to try them on. It's a commitment. Once I find a good pair, I buy three or four at a time and always wash them inside out."

for them, like Woody Allen or

HOW I GOT MY LOOK

# Paul Bettany

The British star, who's making his directorial debut with *Shelter*, favors a uniform of luxe classics. But that doesn't keep him from channeling his inner Keith Richards.

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### FRAGRANCE

### DARK REBEL

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SHOP

### GAME TIME

been named the first Official Timekeeper of the NBA. As part of the partnership, Tissot will use their timekeeping expertise to develop an integrated timing system for all 29 NBA arenas. In the words of NBA Commissioner Adam Silver, "In Basketball, every second—or even tenth of a second—can be critical, and this new partnership with Tissot will bring state-of-the-art timing technology

Leading Swiss watchmaker, Tissot, has

TISSOT.COM

to every NBA arena."



SHOP

### FIT FOR FALL

We profiled a day in the life of style blogger, DJ, and expat-New Zealander Isaac Hindin-Miller as he runs around New York scouting locations, shooting Instagrams and taking meetings for upcoming gigs. See more on how Armani Exchange got him from spot to spot in style.

ISAACLIKES.COM // ARMANIEXCHANGE.COM



READ

### HUG YOUR CUSTOMERS

The essential business book has been revised and updated for the first time. In HUG YOUR CUSTOMERS: Still the Proven Way to Personalize Sales and Achieve Astounding Results [Hachette Books], Jack Mitchell, Chairman of the Mitchell's Family of Stores and renowned master of customer services, offers up a new and improved approach to customer service along with his successful secrets for developing long-lasting business relationships and customer loyalty.

HUGYOURCUSTOMERS.COM

These are the kind of minimalist sunglasses that get designed when longtime friends—one of whom worked for Acne Studios, the other for Saint Laurent—can't find a pair they like for running. District Vision's eyewear is heavy on performance features (superlight, impact-resistant nylon frames; a proprietary, sweat-resistant coating; adjustable nose pads and temple tips) and yet still looks cool enough to wear when you're very purposely not exerting yourself on a lounge chair in Miami. From \$299; districtvision .com and Dover Street Market. —Noah Johnson



### **★ WARM-UP JACKET**

Jet-setters have particular problems—like getting on a plane in chilly New York City and disembarking in glacial Courchevel. Z Zegna has solved this dilemma with its new Icon Warmer, a high-tech field jacket with a built-in heating system that hits 84 degrees in less than a minute and stays piping hot for 13 hours. It recharges wirelessly when you put it back on its hanger. Zegna calls the Icon "perfect for the transglobal/transclimactic 24/7 lifestyle," but it's also ideal for not freezing your ass off when you pop down to the corner bar in the dead of winter. —Josh Condon

3

### APPS FOR ANY CLOSET CASE

Would your significant other describe your closet as a disaster? No need to answer. Just check out these apps, which can help you with your storage woes.

—Jon Roth



WHERE: San Francisco
WHO IT'S FOR: The shorton-space obsessive who
needs quick access to
his midnight-blue (not
navy-blue, not royal-blue

HOW IT WORKS: Omni picks up your items and stores them for 25 cents to \$2 each per month, uploading individual pics for visual reference. Scroll through and choose what you want, and it'll be at your doorstep the next day.

### 1. Clutter

WHERE: San Francisco,
Los Angeles, New
York City, and parts
of New Jersey
WHO IT'S FOR: The seasonal dresser who likes
to switch out espadrilles
for hiking boots and
swim trunks for long
johns at the same time
HOW IT WORKS: Sign
up for Clutter's
\$75-a-month "Closet"
plan, and a moving specialist will come with a
van and packing materials to accommodate
a five-foot-by-five-foot
storage space. Each
month you can have
four items returned free

### 3. MakeSpace

M

WHERE: Anywhere in the Lower 48 states WHO IT'S FOR: The guy looking to store deadstock denim, vintage concert tees, and random junk—not stuff he'll need in 24 hours HOW IT WORKS:

MakeSpace sends either bins, shown below, or boxes for you to pack (they're stored for between \$4.99 and \$6.25 a month), then arranges pickup. The company can photograph each one from above, so you'll remember what's inside; it



MakeSpac



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He is a star who shouldn't have a care in the world. At 33, the classically trained Englishman is happily married, acclaimed by his peers, coveted by directors, and one of the youngest ever to win a Best Actor Oscar. But a year removed from his eerily evocative portrayal of Stephen Hawking in *The Theory of Everything*, Redmayne finds his anxiety growing. His latest film, *The Danish Girl*, called for another onscreen transformation, this time as the transgender pioneer Lili Elbe. It's the riskiest move of his thus-far-charmed career—but one that may lead to another gold statuette.



BY DAVID WALTERS PHOTOGRAPHS BY PAUL WETHERELL STYLING BY DAN MAY







"PRETTY WELL-ENDOWED," EDDIE REDMAYNE SAYS EMPHATICALLY, SLIDING his iPhone across the tabletop. It's late morning at Colbert, a cafébistro in London's Chelsea neighborhood, and, latte orders placed, it seems we've reached the dick-pic-sharing portion of the conversation. He points down at his screen, and there it is in all its glory: the chiseled, shimmering torso—of his Oscar statuette. And it's wearing tighty-whities. The mini briefs were a gift from Jimmy Kimmel given to Redmayne in February after he won Best Actor for his portrayal of the ALS-afflicted astrophysicist Stephen Hawking in *The Theory of Everything*. "The Velcro is coming off," Redmayne says, laughing. "So, occasionally, he's buck-naked."

Redmayne, like his little gold man, prefers modesty—he's bashful about discussing his well-heeled upbringing in London, his education at Eton (where Prince William was a classmate) and then Cambridge, where, as an undergrad, he landed his first big break in a production of Shakespeare's Twelfth Night, opposite the theater legend Mark Rylance. But nowhere was his almost-pathological humility more apparent than during his Oscar-acceptance speech, when he practically begged the Academy's forgiveness for his short yet amazingly ascendant career arc: "I'm fully aware that I am a lucky, lucky man."

He's also kind of fucked. Redmayne, who tums 34 in January, realizes this too, which is why his typically British stiff upper lip is quivering a bit today. The source of his agita: *The Danish Girl*, the ripely timed story of Lili Elbe, born Einar Wegener, the first person to undergo sexreassignment surgery, in Dresden, Germany, in 1931—and a role that brings with it more potential pitfalls than Redmayne can count. "You don't want to let people down," he explains, nervously fidgeting with a sugar dispenser. "And you know you will—you can't please everyone."

Since the first images of a lithe, ruby-lipped, bewigged Redmayne surfaced online in February, *The Danish Girl* has produced buzz and scrutiny in equal measure. After all, the difference between a subtle, nuanced portrayal of an iconic transgender pioneer and Mrs. Doubtfire—esque bad drag can be as thin as a pair of panty hose. And Redmayne—unlike Caitlyn Jenner or *Orange Is the New Black*'s Laverne Cox—is cisgender, leading some to accuse the filmmakers of having wasted the rare opportunity to cast a transgender actor. Redmayne can offer only so much to counter that criticism, but the responsibility he feels to the community weighs heavily on him. As one transgender friend told him during his research, the decision to transition boils down to a willingness to "give anything and everything to live a life authentic."

So, yeah—no pressure.

And then, of course, there's the cynical industry view that it's a good old-fashioned awards grab—Hollywood loves a risky reinvention—and that the transgender-identifying bandwagon has room for one more alongside Dallas Buyers Club's Jared Leto and Transparent's Jeffrey Tambor.

"Quite a few people have said, 'You did Stephen Hawking, a physical transformation, and now you're doing another one,' "Redmayne says. "But as an actor, you never go, 'Oh, I need to do this.' You ask yourself, 'Is this story worth telling? Does it hit me?'"

For anyone willing to wager, several betting sites were, at press time, giving Redmayne 6:1 odds of a repeat, behind only Michael Fassbender for Steve Jobs and Leonardo DiCaprio for The Revenant, a role for which the actor reportedly ate raw bison liver and slept in a carcass (so who's really making the Oscar grab here?). Redmayne isn't much for calculating odds, but he does know that his greatest gamble lies ahead. He is one of the youngest ever to win the Oscars' ultimate old-man game—Best Actor—which puts him in both illustrious and cautionary company. For every Daniel Day-Lewis (who won his first of three at 32), there is an Adrien Brody, who followed his winning turn in The Pianist at 29 with M. Night Shyamalan's The Village and hasn't been a contender since. "I had a moment of, 'Oh fuck, I might retire tomorrow. I'm never going to do anything again,'" Redmayne admits. "The thought that it happened too early came in for a second. But then I thought, No, I want this."

### "I'M GOING TO HAVE A CROQUE MONSIEUR," REDMAYNE SAYS DECISIVELY.

"They have a plethora of croque things here." Dressed in a blue-and-burgundy-striped sweater, jeans, and a pair of worn Converse, Redmayne looks at home. And he is. "My parents live just down the road," he says, gesturing behind him. He's headed that way later for lunch.

He can still move through London mostly unmolested, though each new tabloid story inches him closer to legitimate paparazzi target. He was recently photographed while reportedly house hunting with his wife, Hannah Bagshawe, an antiques dealer; they like to "pack on the PDA," which in reality was a pretty chaste kiss, even by married people's standards. The worst disruption came when he and Bagshawe arrived at Heathrow after his Oscar win and a horde of photographers, dozens strong, backpedaled through the terminal, a foot in front of the couple, popping flashes and tripping over each other. "You still have to exit the airport the normal way," Redmayne says, chuckling at another newly unlocked secret of movie stardom. "It's really awkward! You get into the lift, they're at the door. The lift closes, the lift opens, they're there again!" Until they tire of your utterly normal life. "For another day or two, there were shots of me dropping off my dry cleaning or shopping." He exhales and the sudden-onset PTSD dissipates. "Eventually everyone got bored and pissed off."

He also caused a small blog-quake this fall for divulging that—gasp—he doesn't have a personal stylist, essentially crediting his universally applauded red-carpet skills to, well, his taste. This admission seems both fair and completely nauseating to Redmayne. "What I absolutely loathed about that is the world going, 'Uggghhh...'" he says, cackling. "I felt like a dick, but I was asked the question!"

Today—a day off—is a rarity for Redmayne, following a week's worth of long night shoots on Fantastic Beasts and Where to Find Them, the shrouded-in-secrecy prequel to J.K. Rowling's Harry Potter franchise, in which he stars as Newt Scamander. "My last two films were eightweek shoots," he says. "We've done nine on this one and have barely scratched the surface. It's about pacing yourself in a different way."



Redmayne can plot the origins of his career from his corner banquette. Colbert is adjacent to the Royal Court Theatre, where he portrayed the gay son of a U.S. president in a 2008 production of Now or Later, and it's only two miles from the London Palladium, where it all began at age 12, with his role as Workhouse Boy No. 46 in a 1994 production of Oliver! directed by Sam Mendes. His parents—his father is in banking and his mother worked at a firm that helped white-collar expats with relocation—were cautious but supportive of his newfound obsession. "They had no knowledge of the world," Redmayne recalls, "but my dad is pretty good with numbers, so he just knew the statistics of unemployment."

However, the work kept coming, through school and after. In 2005, he was nominated for an Olivier Award for his role in the Edward Albee drama *The Goat, or Who Is Sylvia?* Five years later, he'd win one for his portrayal of the artist Mark Rothko's assistant in *Red*, which eventually transferred to Broadway, where Redmayne also took home a Tony.

In many ways, Redmayne is an old-school stage actor, only with better bone structure. He still craves the energy and camaraderie of the theater. "What I love about Broadway is that you have all the theaters backing into each other, so the sense of community is stronger than in the West End," he says. "When I was doing *Red* there, you'd have Alfred Molina playing Rothko, the Phantom of the Opera was outside having a cigarette, there's Lucy Liu . . ."

Redmayne might have been satisfied walking the boards for the rest of his career, but the thing about that bone structure is you can't fully appreciate it from loge-level seating. In 2005, Redmayne landed his first miniseries, Elizabeth I, directed by Tom Hooper, and was handpicked by

Robert De Niro to play Angelina Jolie's son in the CIA thriller *The Good Shepherd*. Soon he found himself cast in a Burberry campaign, a gig that still causes some to erroneously label him a model turned actor. But Redmayne doesn't sweat it. "Christopher Bailey comes and sees young actors and musicians," he says of being "discovered" by the brand's chief creative officer. "If you're going to model clothes, you can't complain when people think you're a model."

Redmayne's breakout performance—and most natural connection to his character—came in 2011, when he starred opposite Michelle Williams in My Week With Marilyn, as a wide-eyed young man with filmmaking aspirations who develops an unlikely relationship with Marilyn Monroe while she's in England making a movie. Though Williams got the critical nods, Redmayne got much-needed exposure—and some insight into his own chosen career. "There's a line in that one," he recalls, "where Kenneth Branagh, who plays Laurence Olivier, says to my character, 'Are you pleased you joined the circus?'"

### THERE WILL BE NO CROQUE FOR EDDIE REDMAYNE TODAY. THE WAITRESS HAS

informed him that, while there is indeed a plethora of croque things on offer, it's too early for any of them. Now seems like the time for him to play the *Do you know who I am*? card. In a different universe, he would slowly slip a gold statuette out from under the table and ask, "Would you cook one for my friend *Oscar*?" Instead, ever modest and humble, Redmayne requests a bacon sandwich, looking only the faintest bit crestfallen. "It's a delicious bacon sandwich," he offers in consolation, mostly to himself. "We'll need ketchup—lots of ketchup."



This is Redmayne at his best—flustered and flappable, exercising the type of affable, bumbling British-ness that Hugh Grant has made a career of. It's easy to imagine Redmayne starring in a remake of the Grant–Julia Roberts vehicle Notting Hill, playing the charming yet painfully normal guy turned inside out by someone far more famous than he. Maybe a lighthearted romantic comedy would lessen Redmayne's nagging professional anxieties. Maybe.

"It's not as if I have got talent enough to not work hard with it," Redmayne says of his approach to acting, which is, basically: Prepare until your eyes bleed, then prepare some more. It served him well for *The Theory of Everything*, and he hopes it will again. "With *Theory*, I was so scared by it that it forced me to step up and request the things I needed—vocal coaches, movement coaches, specialists. I had four months to prepare. For *The Danish Girl* I had three years."

The director Tom Hooper introduced Redmayne to the story on the set of their second collaboration, 2012's Les Misérables. The Danish Girl had been kicking around Hollywood for years—at one time it was a passion project of Nicole Kidman's—but it was a screenplay without a star when it came to Hooper. "Sometimes when you read a script, you find yourself picturing an actor. Eddie was that actor from the first read," Hooper recalls. "I had a very strong instinct about him, and that instinct stayed with me. I literally slipped him a script in an unmarked envelope on the barricades. He read it and came back to me

as one of life's great blessings," says Wachowski, one half of the sibling directorial team behind the *Matrix* trilogy, who quietly transitioned and introduced herself as Lana in 2012. "I told Eddie that Lili and Gerda made my existence possible. Without the imagination and courage of these two women, LGBT history might have evolved from a much later starting point. And Eddie's process is so compassionate, always striving to inhabit a character's vulnerability. He wanted to understand Lili in this way, and I believe he did."

A piece of advice Redmayne's theater pal Alfred Molina once gave him stuck with him during his research—which ranged from observing the manner in which his wife applied lipstick or the way his makeup artist positioned herself as she sat to manipulating his posture to create the illusion of feminine hips: Immersive preparation, Molina advised, succeeds only when it is invisible. "He told me the worst thing an actor can do is show his homework," Redmayne recalls. "You do all of the work in order for it not to be visible. That's what I hoped for."

Redmayne's Elbe is, above all, subtle—he conveys the character's fledgling femininity with demure half-smiles and wispy fingers brushed over Gerda's silken slip. But the film also required Redmayne to bare himself in a more literal way—massacring his modesty in a full-frontal scene in which he stands before a mirror, tucking his penis between his legs to simulate a vagina—and he knows the usual questions will follow. "Any time you get naked in front of a crew, it's

### "I HAVE A FEAR OF THE TALK SHOWS ON THIS ONE," REDMAYNE SAYS OF PROMOTING THE DANISH GIRL. "THEY ALWAYS SAY, 'TELL ME A FUNNY STORY,' BUT THIS FILM WAS SO INTENSE. WE WON'T BE PUTTING OUT A GAG REEL."

and said he'd fallen in love with it the same way I had. I have fitting memories of the barricades—of revolution."

Hugh Jackman, who played Jean Valjean in *Les Mis* and spent a fair amount of time lugging Redmayne's unconscious Marius over his shoulder, saw early on that he wouldn't have to carry his young costar through the performance. "Eddie is one of the few actors I've worked with who, during rehearsals, when we're reading through the script, his delivery was so natural that, not once but three times, I thought he'd stopped reading and was just talking," Jackman says. "He fooled the entire cast at the table read. He's one of the best I've ever worked with."

Owing to his Shakespearean pedigree, Redmayne had played female characters before—most notably Viola in *Twelfth Night*—but portraying Lili Elbe required much more than a trip to a wardrobe trailer or a makeup chair. "I fell into all the clichés of ignorance," Redmayne admits. "I didn't realize that gender and sexuality weren't related. I confused the terms *transvestitism* and *transgender*. But what's lovely is, the second you understand the difference, you see how gigantic it is and how important it is that we educate ourselves."

And that he did: Redmayne spent hours conducting interviews with transgender women and exhaustively researched *Man Into Woman*, an account of Elbe and her partner, Gerda Wegener, that was first published in 1933. "I could immediately see that he dared to go places where he felt unsafe," says Alicia Vikander, who plays the conflicted yet ultimately supportive Gerda. "He dared to go into deep water."

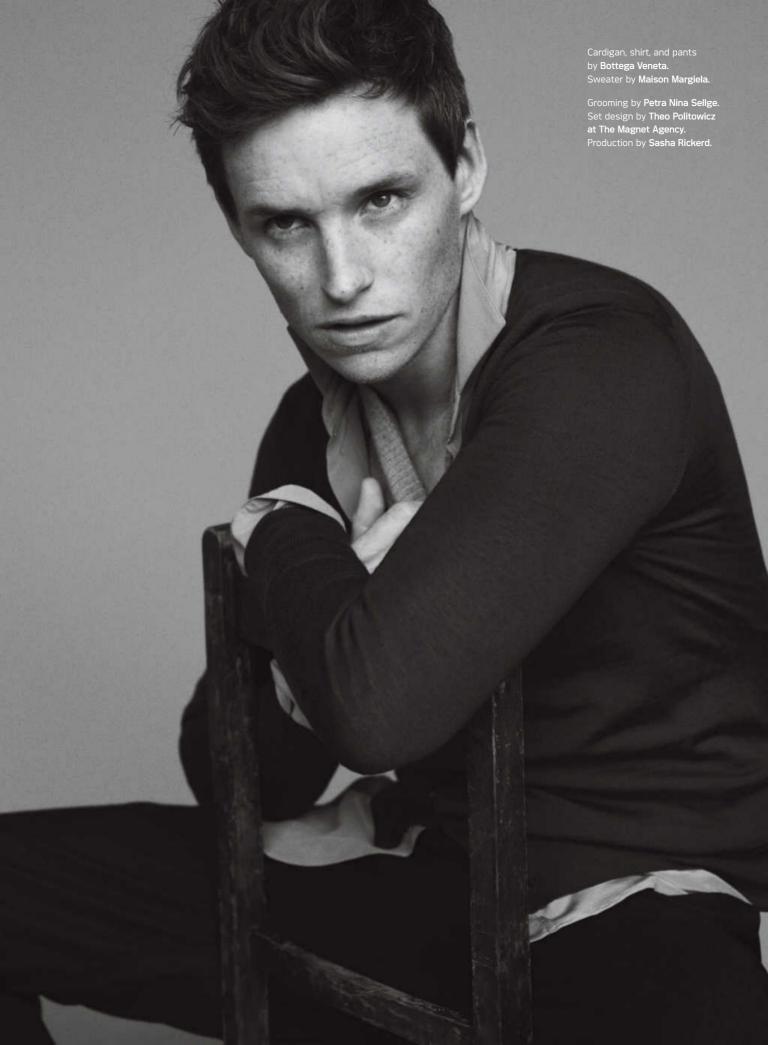
On the advice of the director Lana Wachowski—whom Redmayne had worked with on the sci-fi epic *Jupiter Ascending*—he also read the trans author Jan Morris' seminal 1974 memoir, *Conundrum*. "I am always nervous about LGBT stories' being portrayed as inherently tragic, that our 'otherness' is somehow a curse, whereas many of us experience it

embarrassing," he says. "It's not as if we as actors have some way of becoming comfortable with it. It would be exactly like you getting naked in front of 30 people." Redmayne pauses and smiles, perhaps aware that he's executed the most notable onscreen tuck since Buffalo Bill in *The Silence of the Lambs*. "I have a fear of the talk shows on this one. They always say, 'Tell me a funny story,' but this film was so intense. We won't be putting out a gag reel."

Hooper believes his leading man succeeds in overcoming his self-doubt. "What's worth saying about Eddie is that he has the mark of the truly gifted," he says. "It's essential to acting that, in the moment, when the cameras roll, he's not defined by his anxiety. However anxious he might be in the lead-up to it, in the moment, Eddie's free."

Of course, freedom is a relative term when, after being held captive by a series of all-consuming roles, you've consigned your every waking hour to the wizarding world. "I've always wanted a watch mark, but it never happened," Redmayne says, gesturing at his freckly wrist. It's an admission of hopeless pastiness, a tan-challenged dream deferred, but it's also an indication that the man really needs a vacation. Luckily, there's a calendar date circled in February, after Fantastic Beasts wraps and before the Oscars, where Redmayne is assured at least one trip to the stage—to announce the Best Actress category, per Academy tradition. He'll go someplace warm to ponder the next project but mostly to turn his brain off and rid himself of the anxieties about the reception—positive or negative—The Danish Girl will inevitably bring.

For now, Redmayne can only rely on the feeling he got during early dress rehearsals to gauge the success of his transformation. "Just walking onto a set filled with men, watching the difference in how you're treated, or the scrutiny . . . the gaze was overwhelming," he says. "A lot of the women I worked with said, 'Yeah . . . welcome to our world.'"





The 8 Coolest Microneighborhoods in the World





TUCKED WITHIN GLOBAL HOT SPOTS—WALKABLE ENCLAVES DENSELY PACKED WITH OF-THE-MOMENT FASHION, FOOD, AND GIBSON, JIMMY IM, DANIEL JAMESON, DANIEL SCHEFFLER, AND MAURA KUTNER WALTERS. PHOTOGRAPH BY CRAIG CUTLER

## Los Angeles: Fairfax Avenue

For more than half a century, Fairfax Avenue was L.A.'s borscht belt, dominated by Jewish delis, bakeries, and tchotchke shops-until 2004, when the New York City cult streetwear brand Supreme [1] stepped onto the scene. Now the stretch between Waring and Oakwood avenues—thick with art galleries, cafés, sneaker shops, and buzzy restaurants-defines L.A.'s downtown vibe. "Fairfax in the 2000s started with indie art and the skater scene, and everyone else followed-like Venice in the seventies," says John Terzian, president, co-owner, and cofounder of the h.wood Group, which runs celebrity hot spots like Nice Guy and Bootsy Bellows. The combination of old and new-septuagenarian locals mixing with teenage skate rats and tattooed sous chefs-lends the area an of-the-moment appeal.

SEE: Cinefamily [2], originally a silent theater, now plays talkies but retains its reputation for showing avant-garde, obscure, and downright weird films. A few blocks south is the sleek, ultrahip Known Gallery [3], which deftly mixes art (contemporary works from the likes of Dennis Morris and Bom.K) and commerce (pop-up retail concepts for brands including Alife and Incase x Kelly Slater). Just up the street is Popular Demand [4], which opened last year and garnered streetwear-label attention for its oversize audio-visual installation, including a 12-footsquare drop-down screen with full surround sound



Plan Check





Canter's Deli

SHOP: Check out the understated masculine jewelry at FourTwoFour [5]—Wiz Khalifa is known to rock its chains-then watch (or join) sneakerheads and streetwear fiends camping outside Supreme any night before a hyped product is about to drop. If you want to go the gourmand route, head to Cape Seafood and Provisions [6], slated to open in early December, from two-Michelin-starred chef Michael Cimarusti, where you can pick up not only fresh fish and seafood but also prepared sauces, alder-smoked salmon, and packaged goods from Cimarusti's restaurant, Connie & Ted's. EAT: Jon Shook and Vinny Dotolo defined carnivorous cool on Fairfax back in 2008 with the meat-obsessed Animal [7]; last April, the pair opened Jon & Vinny's [8] Italian diner and pizzeria across the street, which quickly landed on Bon Appetit's Best New Restaurants in America list for its house-made pastas and elevated staples like six-hour Bolognese polenta. A short walk south is Plan Check [9], which draws a lively crowd thanks to casual-contemporary

American fare like southern-fried Jidori chicken. Don't miss

Canter's Deli [10], a temple to pastrami since 1931 and one of the few 24-hour eateries in L.A. Knowing veteran party promoter Jordan Buky used to be the only way into his secretive, celeb-filled "no-name" club [11] (it's up the block from Jon & Vinny's) for cocktails and fried chicken, but you can now e-mail fairfax432@ gmail.com for a reservation.

## **BLVDier**



## Chicago: East Fulton Market

This West Loop meatpacking district still sees a flurry of forklift traffic on weekday mornings, but upscale eateries now outnumber cold-storage facilities along the new "Restaurant Row" on W. Randolph Street. And there's more than just food: The city's cognoscenti lounge at Soho House's members-only rooftop, Google moved its Chicago headquarters here (an Ace Hotel is on



THIS PAGE, PHOTOGRAPHS, CLOCKWISE FROM TOP: COURTESY OF CANTER'S: ALEX MAIER/COURTESY OF BLYDIER DYLAN + JENI/COURTESY OF PLAN CHECK. PAGE 73: LEGO SCULPTURES BY CODY WELLS OF G3BRIX.

PHOTOGRAPHS: COURTESY OF EACH LOCATION (3).

the way), and upscale retail has followed the foodie boom. "We're surrounded by great food, markets, cocktail lounges, parks, and galleries," says Greg Laketek of **West Loop Salumi [1],** the state's only USDA-certified salumeria. "There's rarely any reason to leave the area."

**DRINK:** Grant Achatz's **Aviary [2]** is the most exclusive bar in town—unless you manage to get

shop: You'll have BLVDier [8] to yourself during a fitting for a new custom suit, so enjoy a whiskey while selecting the finest fabrics from Biella, Italy. Stop in to Billy Reid [9], which opened this fall, for an updated take on classic American menswear, and try Morlen Sinoway Atelier [10] for contemporary furniture, rugs, lighting, and objets d'art.

## Tête Charcuterie



into the 14-seat speakeasy in its basement, the Office. If you do score an "invitation" (tip: ask your server at the Aviary if there's room downstairs), expect serious cocktail artistry -and a wax-sealed bill that you'll want to split with friends. A short walk southeast brings you to The Lunatic, the Lover & the Poet [3], with 24 wines on tap, including several exclusive blends. One block over is Lone Wolf [4], a standout even in this craft-beer-crazed town, with a well-edited selection of bottled and draft offerings. EAT: The neighborhood's meatpacking roots survive at Tête Charcuterie [5], with chefs Thomas Rice and Kurt Guzowski's adventurous sausages and cured meats (but don't sleep on the vegetable cocotte). Four blocks away is the Brazilian-inflected La Sirena Clandestina [6], which serves up empanadas, grilled head-on prawns with charred-serrano salsa, and the best kale salad in town. The

inventive, Asian-influenced tasting menu at **Moto [7]**, a restaurant-laboratory from the late *Iron Chef America* contestant Homaro Cantu, is served as 5-, 9-, or 18-course "experiences."

## Miami: NW 2nd Avenue

Across Biscayne Bay from the tourist playground of Miami Beach and just south of the Design District lies the Wynwood Arts District—a former Puerto Rican enclave whose factories and warehouses have been colonized by creative types. "This is where we wanted to be: a growing neighborhood that harbors artists and creative minds," says chef Bradley Kilgore, who chose Wynwood for his first solo restaurant, the progressive-American Alter [1], after running Jean-Georges Vongerichten's J&G Grill. A 10-block stretch of NW 2nd Avenue is particularly action-packed, with more than a dozen art galleries interspersed with restaurants, coffee bars, and museums.

**PRINK:** The small-batch roaster **Panther Coffee [2]** is the best place to kick-start your day. The nitro cold brew is steeped overnight and packs a punch, and the spacious patio is an ideal place to grab some sun and scope out the beautiful people. For a different kind of kick, skip around the corner to

the Butcher Shop [3], whose rotating selection of tapped and bottled craft beers includes local favorites from Wynwood Brewing Company and M.I.A. Brewing. Join the well-heeled crowd on the tufted-leather banquettes at Wynwood Diner [4] for a proper drink; Vanessa Hulsey, formerly of the James Beard-nominated Broken Shaker, designed the cocktail menu, which includes everything from a classic mojito to "boozy shakes" like the Mad Hatter, a combination of tequila, ancho-chili liqueur, pomegranate juice, and cinnamon gelato. EAT: The house-made tortillas and smashed-to-order guacamole at Coyo Taco [5] are fitting accompaniments to chef Scott Linquist's ambitious riffs on Mexican street food, including a confit-style crispy duck with serrano-pepper salsa. A few blocks north is Wynwood Kitchen &

Bar [6], a Latin-inspired smallplates restaurant where art and food cohabit: Massive abstract paintings by the German artist Christian Awe hang in the main dining room, and a mural by Shepard Fairey dominates the bar. If you're in town during Wynwood Second Saturday Art Walk (the second Saturday of every month), sample the food trucks that descend on the hood; try the build-your-own grilled cheese at Ms. Cheezious and Myumi's omakase, served from a converted FedEx delivery van. SEE: Wynwood Walls [7] is a stunning block-long stretch of windowless warehouses turned massive canvases for some of the biggest street artists in the world, including OSGEMEOS and Kenny Scharf. A short hop south lies Emerson Dorsch [8], specializing in up-and-coming artists, many never before seen in Miami. To the north is the Rubell Family Collection [9], with works from the likes of Basquiat, Haring, Koons, and Warhol housed in a 45,000-square-foot former DEA storage facility.



## Coyo Taco

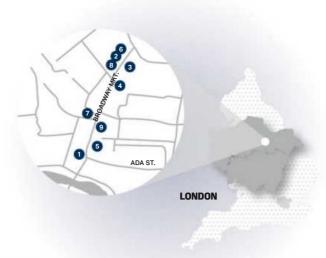


## Wynwood Diner



## London: Broadway Market

A preferred stomping ground for established creatives and Central Saint Martins art students alike, Hackney has made waves as one of the most happening neighborhoods in London. The booming scene around Broadway Market, a bustling street flanked by London Fields and Regent's Canal, is the area's white-hot epicenter. The open-air market





Climpson & Sons

for which it's named dates back to the 1800s, but a wealth of chic new shops, gourmet restaurants, and modern pubs abound. "Broadway Market has managed to preserve its London charm," says Lee Broom, an internationally acclaimed furniture designer. "There's a really good pie-andmash shop called F. Cooke's [1], which has been owned by the same family since 1900—it actually turns into a gin palace at night, so it keeps a sense of heritage but makes it cool and contemporary."

**EAT:** You could stuff yourself on the many edibles sold at the market's 100-plus stalls (definitely don't miss the baked goods at Violet, from former Chez Panisse pastry chef Claire Ptak), but destination restaurants have significantly boosted the area's food cred. If proper fish and chips are

a mandatory condition for London trips, Fin & Flounder [2] doesn't just offer local catches (think scallops, haddock, and, of course, flounder); it'll also fry them up right at the stall. Across the street is The Cat & Mutton [3], a 286-year-old pub, refurbished last year, with the London culinary team Mother Clucker serving up its take on British-inflected American fare like tea-brined fried chicken. Or make your way to the 12-seat communal table at Hill & Szrok [4], a butcher shop where you can watch the cooks prepare the organic, free-range meat of your choice, from pork chop to rib eye to lamb leg—or grab a cut to take home for yourself.

**PERUSE:** The market's varied, ever-rotating mix of vintage wares, home goods, and local artistry is the area's main draw (it lives up to its slogan of "qual-

ity, specialty, variety"), but print addicts will be rewarded for stepping out of the bustle. Dip into **Artwords Bookshop [5]** for a beautifully edited collection of art tomes and under-the-radar magazines, while just up the street at the quirky **Donlon Books [6]**, you'll find an eclectic selection of independent titles covering fashion, philosophy, music theory, and everything in between.

DRINK: You'll need fuel to match the area's high-energy crowds:
Cà Phê VN is sold in independent coffee shops all over the U.K., but hit up the company's Saigon Street Cafe [7] stall to grab a Vietnamese iced coffee straight from the source. Or check out Climpson & Sons [8], an Australian-style roaster that has been serving up espressos and flat whites to devoted locals for

10 years. Head a few blocks down

to **Stories** [9] and join the laid-back crowd lingering over all-day brunch, including spiked juices like Don't Be Strawberry Fooled, made with pineapple juice, fresh strawberries, coconut water, and Jamaican rum; when the sun sets, the space transforms into a craft-cocktail lounge.

## Istanbul: Pera-Galata

The most exciting area in perhaps the most exciting city in the world is a stylish, artsy strip on the border between Pera, home of upscale hotels, and boho-chic Galata. Starting at the coolest club (and hottest place to stay) in the city, Soho House Istanbul [1], the route brings you through a corridor of gourmet offerings and musical-instrument shops before depositing you on Serdar-I Ekrem Street, a hub for the city's tastemakers and creative class. "As Istanbul has become a dynamic world-class-art destination, South Galata has emerged as the spot for the fashion set," says Bige Örer, director of the world-renowned Istanbul Biennial. "You have to include Serdar-I Ekrem. It's a good spot to meet and mingle with the local designers and artists." The stretch to explore is about eight blocks long and packed with desirable distractions: Phenomenal food. Contemporary design. A hint of history. Fetish-worthy fashion. Cool cafés and bars and modelhot habitués.

EAT & DRINK: If you're not a member, it's worth joining the celeb-studded guest list at Soho House simply to get access to the bars in the 19th-century palazzo: the Club Bar, where the best of modern

## 290 SQM

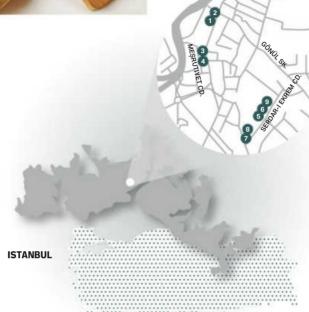




grilled octopus with harissa at the easygoing bistro Aheste [4].
LINGER: Sntrl Dükkan [5] is equal parts bohemian café and design boutique. Grab a Turkish coffee, settle in among the eclectic mix of home furnishings, and enjoy gratis reads like Man of the World and

Meze by Lemon Tree

cocktail culture is shaken with vibrant local spices and mixers: the Embassy Club, home to top DJs each weekend; and the rooftop bar, the superlative spot for a sundowner—say, a Raki fizz—and panoramic views of the Old City's mosque domes and minarets. Across the street is Meze by Lemon Tree [2], serving an ever-changing array of inventive small plates. Mainly, Gram [3] is "just" a top-flight patisserie, but from noon to 3 P.M. it serves exquisite seasonal modern Turkish fare by local culinary star Didem Segnol. Next door, a chic crowd lingers over wine and



Monocle. Mavra [6] bills itself as a design studio/café/workshop, but in the evening (it's open till 2 A.M.), the cozy space transforms into a wine bar where locals drain their glasses to retro soul. Up the street is the city's leading design showroom-gallery, Archive [7], which exhibits luminaries from Scandinavia, Japan, and Finland. SHOP: As the TURKISH VERY MUCH sign in the window suggests, all the offerings in the bright, poppy Lunapark [8] are made in Turkey by contemporary designers. It's directly above Fifth Ave [8], widely regarded as one of the best vintage stores in Istanbul. After opening in Amsterdam, Europe's hippest shop came to Galata: 290 SQM [9] is a perfectly merchandised space featuring smartly curated clothing and accessories from A.P.C., Our Legacy, and Raf Simons, among others; boom boxes alternately spitting out De La Soul and Frank Ocean; and a wall of limited-edition kicks that attract sneakerheads from both the European and the Asian sides of Turkey.

Soho House Istanbul







Maya Bash

## Tel Aviv: Gan Hahashmal District

Around the turn of the millennium, this small quarter underwent a transformation from redlight district to chic address for fashion designers attracted by the low rents. Thanks to a concerted rebranding effort, which included converting neglected Bauhaus buildings into gleaming shops, Gan Hahashmal became home to some of the White City's most in-demand hotels and restaurants. "The area changed from just fashion," says Maya Bash [1], whose eponymous androgynous label has an international following and who was one of the first designers to move into the area. "You now have a cool customized-bicycle place, coffee bars, great hamburgers, great music. Creative, interesting people live and work here." And when they're off-duty, the booming nightlife scene keeps those tastemakers partying all night.

STAY: Three of Tel Aviv's hottest hotels are within a few blocks of one another-all are about a 20-minute walk from the beach—and great for a casual drink, even if you're not a guest. On the same block of Yavne Street are two top boutique hotels: Townhouse Tel-Aviv [2] features chic, modern design curated by luxuryfurniture-maker Kastiel; Alma Hotel and Lounge [3] occupies a former six-family apartment building built in 1925 and has an adventurous mix of vintage and contemporary furnishings. Just a few blocks away is Lily & Bloom [4], whose elegant exterior hides a cozy rooftop terrace. EAT: Eyal Shani, one of Israel's top chefs, reinterprets regional classics at North Abraxas [5] on Lilienblum Street; try his Judean-grape-marinated lamb shawarma or any of the daily carpaccios. A short walk south is Halutzim 3 [6], where chef Eitan Vanunu deliciously desecrates kosher dietary laws with dishes

like challah stuffed with spiced pork and bacon. For a traditional kubbeh soup, head to the Tel Aviv outpost of the famed Jerusalem eatery Azura [7]; its version of meat-filled dumplings in a vivid beet broth is arguably the best in the country. PARTY: Tel Aviv's nightlife is among the most vibrant in the world, thanks in large part to Gan Hahashmal. The underground club Ktvot [7] (it's literally underground, beneath Azura) is the place for alternative dance tunes, and Kuli Alma [8] is owned and operated by a DJ-artist-promoter collective and has an open-air courtyard, an art gallery, an indoor dance club manned by a rotating who's-who of local and visiting turntablists, and walls that play host to street-art murals and vintage movies. Two blocks north is the indie haven Radio E.P.G.B. [9], one of the city's most famous DJ venues thanks to celebrity partyers like Mark Ronson, Bono, and Baauer.



Kuli Alma





Saturdays Surf NYC

## Tokyo: Daikanyama District

Style is a way of life in Tokyo, and the modern, stylish Daikanyama is the city's hidden gem for high fashion and design. The compact area's eclectic array of shops are more grown-up than Harajuku's anime-inspired boutiques but cooler than the luxury stalwarts in nearby Omotesando. "Some of the best shopping and restaurants in Japan are tucked away in the narrow streets of Daikanyama," says Morgan Collett of Saturdays Surf NYC [1], who chose the neighborhood for the Tokyo outpost of his menswear line. "There's endless inspiration in these buildings." Expect openair cafés, a mix of contemporary and traditional Japanese architecture, and a healthy buzz on the weekends. The area's small boutiques and coffee bars evoke New York City's West Villagebut the peaceful, rolling streets suggest San Francisco, too. SHOP: Okura [2], a tiny space that mimics a knickknack-strewn apartment, has an ever-changing assortment of cool homewares like lamps, vintage suitcases, and terra-cotta flower pots. Don't miss the standout menswear selection—everything from ties to chambray shirts to sneakers made according to Japanese tailoring techniques and designs. For cult Japanese brands like Beams, N. Hoolywood, and Porter, cross the street to the ultrahip B. Jirushi Yoshida [3]. A short walk east, at Daikanyama's





Tsutaya



lauded T-Site complex, you'll find **Tsutaya [4]**, which sells international magazines, Englishlanguage books, and elegant writing instruments in a space designed by the award-winning architects Mark Dytham and Astrid Klein.

EAT: Built atop the old Tokyu line train tracks, Log Road
Daikanyama [5] is like a miniature, street-level version of New York City's High Line and a great place to sit outside and have a casual bite; try Camden's Blue Donuts' decadent maple-bacon version or the garlic shrimp from Fred Segal's kitchen truck. For an indoor meal, hit Bombay Bazar [2], in the same building as Okura, a tiny café modeled after an island eatery and the place to get your curry fix.

DRINK: Mocha Coffee's [6] owner, Hussein Ahmed, imports beans from Yemen and sells 12 varieties of indie brews, one of which, Ibbi Mt. Somarah, is cultivated at 9,000 feet, costs ¥1,200 (\$10) a cup, and is worth every bit. On weekends, Saturdays Surf NYC is a popular post-brunch spot thanks to its beautiful outdoor patio, unbeatable views of the city, and perfect lattes from its in-house espresso bar. And for a well-deserved end-ofday beer on a spacious terrace surrounded by Japanese Keyaki trees, head to Ivy Place [7], behind Tsutaya, which serves a selection of craft beers from T.Y. Harbor Brewery.

## Melbourne: East Fitzroy

This dense stretch on and around Smith Street still rocks the counterculture attitude established by the bohemians who settled in the Fitzroy neighborhood in the 1970s. But it's also newly home to experimental fine dining, upscale whiskey dens, Vietnamese bakeries, and barbershops with

Aloha Sailor



a speakeasy vibe. "The diverse texture remains the most vital aspect of the area," says Max Delany, senior curator of contemporary art at the nearby National Gallery of Victoria. "It's evidenced by the enduring presence of artists' studios and bespoke design practices and the plethora of bars and restaurants." Plus, examples of one of the world's greatest coffee cultures abound.

EAT: The duo behind Saint Crispin [1] honed their skills in the world-renowned kitchens of Gordon Ramsay and Paul Bocuse; the seasonal menu is updated daily, but expect fare like smoked-eel croquettes and espresso soufflé. A few doors down, you'll find the Noble Experiment [2], with adventurous dishes for sharing, like pork cheek with white miso and seasonal pickles and heirloom beetroots accompanied by purslane and a charred-eggplant yogurt. End the night upstairs with the restaurant's selection of rare whiskeys. **DRINK:** Started by the group responsible for the buzzy, adja-

cent Belle's Hot Chicken, Bar Clarine [3] is one of the best wine spots in Melbourne, with a focus on natural and organic. Next door is the Everleigh [4], a moody lounge with colonial charm; try the Morning Fix, a mix of scotch, Aperol, lemon, and marmalade syrup. For a tropical vibe, stroll north to Aloha Sailor [2], a popup in the basement of the Noble Experiment that's inspired by L.A.'s tiki-bar craze of the 1930s but has the exacting craftsmanship of a modern cocktail bar. SHOP: Trained by Dame Vivienne Westwood, the team behind Tanner + Teague [5] offers a selection of muted, deconstructed jackets, trousers, and tops as well as leather goods and other accessories. Northside Records [6] is your best bet for a rare Sonny Rollins or Grandmaster Flash LP (it also has its own soul/ funk record label). A mash-up of art studio, gallery, and design store, Spacecraft [7] is worth a visit to scope out its latest installations and walk away with screen prints and bold housewares.

Northside Records







# N<sup>V</sup>TURAL SELEC ION

PHOTOGRAPHS BY BEN WELLER | STYLING BY DAN MAY

**—** 



Clothing by Dolce & Gabbana. Hat by Hackett London. Sneakers by Saint Laurent by Hedi Slimane.





Coat by Tommy Hilfiger. Shirt by Michael Kors.



Clothing by **Prada.** Hat by **Dickies.** 



From left: Coat by **Bottega Veneta**, sweater by **Berluti**, shirt and pants by **Marc Jacobs**, sneakers by **Saint Laurent by Hedi Slimane**. Clothing by **Versace**.



Clothing by Ralph Lauren Purple Label. Sneakers by Golden Goose Deluxe Brand.



Clothing by **Dunhill**. Sneakers by **Saint Laurent by Hedi Slimane**.



From left: Coat by BOSS, sweater by Marc Jacobs, shirt and pants by Dries Van Noten, sneakers by Saint Laurent by Hedi Slimane. Coat by Salvatore Ferragamo, sweater by Burberry Prorsum, shirt and scarf by Dunhill, pants by Etro, sneakers by Golden Goose Deluxe Brand.

## welcome to the hotel california



BY MOLLY OSWAKS PHOTOGRAPHS BY KEVIN COOLEY

You can check out, but you can never leave the Cecil Hotel, the infamous haunted home of suicides and serial killers on L.A.'s Skid Row. Now, as *American Horror Story* shines a spotlight on the Cecil's grisly past, one of America's top developers is attempting to resurrect and rebrand it. Can the country's most cursed address really become the latest hipster hot spot?



## "ARE YOU READY TO SIGN YOUR LIFE AWAY?"

That's what the receptionist asked the day I checked into the Cecil Hotel in Los Angeles. I would say I was taken aback—were this not among the most cursed addresses in America, the site of shocking murders and untold suicides, the erstwhile home of junkies, prostitutes, sex offenders, and serial killers.

Over the decades, the Cecil's history had grown so dark and sinister that by February 2013, it seemed to have infected the hotel's very infrastructure: The water ran a bilious shade of black before turning clear and even then had a pungent, tangy taste to it.

For days, guests said nothing; after all, this was a near-century-old structure in the heart of Skid Row. Then, on February 19, following a rash of complaints to the front desk, a maintenance worker named Santiago Lopez was sent to inspect the rooftop water tanks. There, in one of four eight-foot-tall cisterns, he discovered the naked, bloated body of a young woman, her skin marbled and visibly decomposing. "I noticed the hatch to the main water tank was open and looked inside and saw an Asian woman lying faceup in the water," Lopez recalled in court documents.

The body belonged to 21-year-old Elisa Lam, a Canadian student who had checked into the Cecil on January 26 and was last seen alive in a grainy elevator video from January 31. In it, Lam, who had previously been diagnosed with bipolar disorder, steps into the elevator alone, appearing agitated. She shifts from foot to foot, dances a spastic two-step, and ultimately disappears off-camera before the doors silently slide shut behind her.

After Lam's parents reported her missing, cops and cadaver dogs searched all 15 floors of the hotel—including the rooftop—and found nothing: At the time, nobody thought to look in the cisterns. And so guests drank and bathed in the water contaminated by Lam's corpse for as long as 19 days.

It is still unclear how the young woman made it to the roof undetected, let alone into the tank; to do so would have required disabling the alarm system. Maybe she found her own way up, on a manic mission divorced from reality. Or perhaps she just chatted up the wrong drifter in a neighborhood full of them. Her cell phone was never recovered. The coroner would ultimately rule her death an accident.

The stranger-than-fiction circumstances surrounding Lam's disappearance—along with the Cecil's gruesome history—have proved irresistible to Hollywood. It was only a matter of time before corpses began turning up in water towers on TV shows from *Castle* to *How to Get Away With Murder* and in screenplays peddling the 21st-century equivalent of *Psycho*'s shower scene.

Most prominently, the Cecil served as inspiration for the latest installment of Ryan Murphy's critically acclaimed anthology series *American Horror Story: Hotel.* "There was a surveillance video that went

around two years ago that showed a girl getting into an elevator in a hotel that was said to be haunted," Murphy said at an August press conference announcing the new season. "She was never seen again." By October, fans were making pilgrimages to the Cecil, smartphones in hand, snapping outré selfies in the lobby of the #murderhotel.

As a result of all this attention, the Cecil suddenly finds itself at the unlikely intersection of L.A. noir, Hollywood glamour, social-media mania, and the relentless march of gentrification. In an era in which formerly off-limits neighborhoods everywhere from Berlin to Brooklyn are being transformed into shiny hipster playgrounds, a prewar hotel in the heart of newly hot downtown L.A. would seem to be a surefire road to riches.

That's the plan, anyway, admits the Cecil's deep-pocketed new owner, Richard Born, a Queens native who purchased the hotel in 2014 for \$30 million and whose portfolio of New York City properties includes the Mercer, the Maritime, the Bowery, the Greenwich, the Ludlow, and the Jane—a former fleabag with a clientele nearly as starcrossed as the Cecil's. If you've stayed someplace cool in New York, Born is probably at least partly responsible—for both the property and the gentrification of the surrounding neighborhood. Now he's aiming to do the same with the Cecil, establishing a West Coast beachhead for his ongoing experiment in urban renewal.

In fact, history teaches us, it's not so easy for hotels to shake their dark pasts. Opened in 1884, New York's iconic Chelsea Hotel has been home to Bob Dylan, Janis Joplin, Iggy Pop, Patti Smith, and Charles Bukowski, to name but a few. It was also Dylan Thomas' home when he drank himself into an early grave in 1953, and where Sid Vicious stabbed his girlfriend Nancy Spungen to death in 1978. It is currently being restored and renovated, much to the chagrin of the hotel's old-timers, but its Sid-and-Nancy story line is certain to remain part and parcel of the Chelsea's darkly glamorous allure. Similarly, at Chateau Marmont, bragging rights come with the key to Bungalow 3, where John Belushi OD'd in 1982. At the Cecil, however, Born is seeking to turn the page on the grisly past and usher in a chic new era, one free of the low-rent notoriety that has clung to the hotel as stubbornly as the mural that dominates its beige-brick façade, advertising LOW DAILY WEEKLY RATES against a peeling, bloodred background.

"We've taken over some pretty spooky buildings in New York," Born says. "I built the Bowery Hotel next to the Salvation Army shelter and across from a New York City—run methadone clinic, and it didn't scare us off," he says, scoffing at the idea that Skid Row's scruffiness might keep guests away. "People today say, 'Oh, the Bowery Hotel—what a chichi neighborhood.' Well, it wasn't that way a dozen years ago."

Born seems similarly untroubled by Hollywood's current obsession with all things Cecil. "The TV show doesn't change anything," he says. Besides, Born's grand rebranding won't happen for another

## **DOOM SERVICE** THE CECIL THROUGH THE YEARS

**DECEMBER 1924 NOVEMBER 1931** OCTOBER 1954 **OCTOBER 1962 JUNE 1964 SUMMER 1985** William Banks Hanner The Cecil's first Helen Gurnee Pauline Otton jumps The body of "Pigeon" While living at opens the Cecil Hotel recorded suicide. gains notoriety from a ninth-floor Goldie Osgood, a the Cecil. avowed at 640 S. Main Street W.K. Norton, is after jumping from window, falling Pershing Square fix-Satanist Richard "the Night Stalker" as a destination for discovered dead in onto a 65-year-old ture, is found raped. a seventh-story traveling businesshis room. Numerous pedestrian named window and falling stabbed, and stran-Ramirez goes on a men and tourists. suicides and to her death atop George Gianinni. gled inside the hotel months-long killing the Cecil's marquee. They both die room she was living spree, leaving at drug overdoses follow during the instantly. in long-term. Her killer least 13 victims in next two decades is never caught. his wake

two years. (The Cecil currently operates as a 600-room budget hotel called Stay on Main.) "American Horror Story," he says, "will have been forgotten by that point."

THE HOTELIER WILLIAM BANKS HANNER BUILT THE CECIL IN 1924 AS A

destination for traveling businessmen and tourists, with an opulent marble lobby, potted palms, and alabaster statuary. It wasn't a bad plan—several similar hotels had opened elsewhere downtown—but Hanner's timing was terrible: Within five years, the United States would sink into the Great Depression and bustling Main Street would begin its swift decline into Skid Row, with as many as 10,000 homeless people living within a four-mile radius.

raising no alarms. Apparently, what happened at the Cecil stayed at the Cecil.

By all appearances, the Cecil today is a hotel with an identity crisis. From the street, visitors are greeted by a grand entryway of brass-and-glass double doors and faux-marble columns under an ornate marquee. Inside, however, the shabby opulence is a far cry from the Art Deco fantasia of *American Horror Story*'s Hotel Cortez.

But where others see squalor, Born envisions a complex of reasonably priced residences catering to young professionals, from techies in town for a few days of meetings to aspiring actors here for the monthslong grind of pilot season. "There is an enormous demand for fully renovated, fully furnished, intelligently designed micro-residences,"





Guests say ghosts of former residents like Richard "the Night Stalker" Ramirez haunt the Cecil's lobby and rooms.

In response, the then-700-room Cecil was gradually transformed into single-room-occupancy housing for transients: Drug use and prostitution were rampant, and the bodies began piling up. Murders and overdoses were not uncommon, and several women leaped to their death from the windows of the upper floors—one killing a passerby in the process. It is even said that the Black Dahlia—a.k.a. Elizabeth Short, whose naked body was found cleaved in half in Leimert Park in 1947—had downed her final drink at the hotel bar.

By the summer of 1985, the Cecil was home to the man who would become its most notorious guest: Richard Ramirez, an avowed Satanist later dubbed the Night Stalker, whose two-year killing spree took the lives of at least 13 people throughout the Los Angeles area. According to legend, Ramirez would return to the hotel from his latest crime scene, strip off his blood-drenched clothes in the alley out back, and climb the stairs to his room naked or in his underwear, somehow

Born says. "Look, it's not going to be a Ritz-Carlton, but it's going to be a place where you can stay for \$150 a night and be proud. Everyone who's building a hotel in downtown L.A. is going to want to charge \$300 to \$400 a night," he notes, citing local hotels such as the Ace and the Standard. "When everyone zigs, I want to zag."

Born has his work cut out for him in exorcising the Cecil's demons. The few guests I overheard in the lobby were almost exclusively foreign, and I never encountered another soul in the elevators or halls, despite the hotel's claim that it was fully booked. My room, two doors down from the registered address of a convicted pedophile—yes, there's an app for that (Offender Locator)—was more like a cell, with beige paint, a slow-moving fan, a strategically dark bedspread, and a door with two deadbolts, two more locks, and a spray of knuckle dents from some past domestic disturbance. Remembering Elisa Lam, I neither washed my face nor brushed my teeth. I lasted one night.

Others, however, are eager for the opportunity to stay in the now-famous Cecil. Clette Fladger, 36, of Long Beach, California, considers herself an American Horror Story superfan. "When I found out they were basing Season 5 on the Cecil Hotel, I thought, I have to go," she says. "I want to see how creepy this place really is!" Fladger and her husband, Charles, drove downtown two days after the season premiere. "I wanted to get a room, but my husband was like, 'Nope. We're not staying here.' He'd read the Yelp reviews."

Born insists all this will change. "We won't be seedy, and we won't be dangerous," he says. He goes on to highlight the forthcoming amenities, including bars, restaurants, shared work spaces, and, he says—without a hint of irony—a small wading pool on the roof. Elisa Lam's ghost, it seems, may have a place to haunt after all.

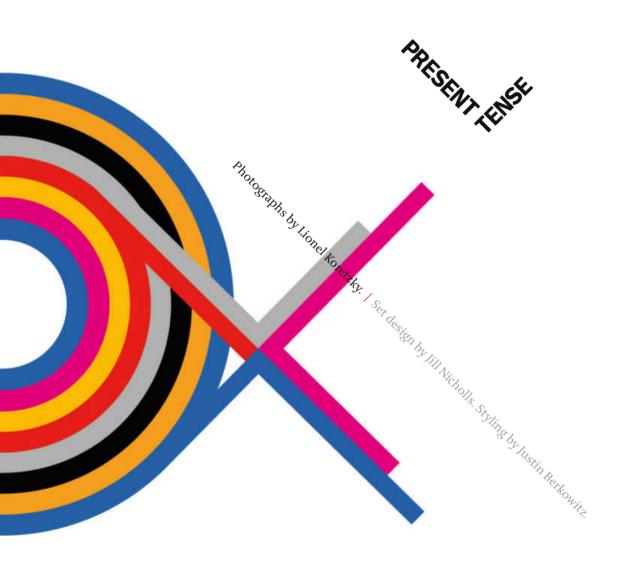
## **JUNE 1991**

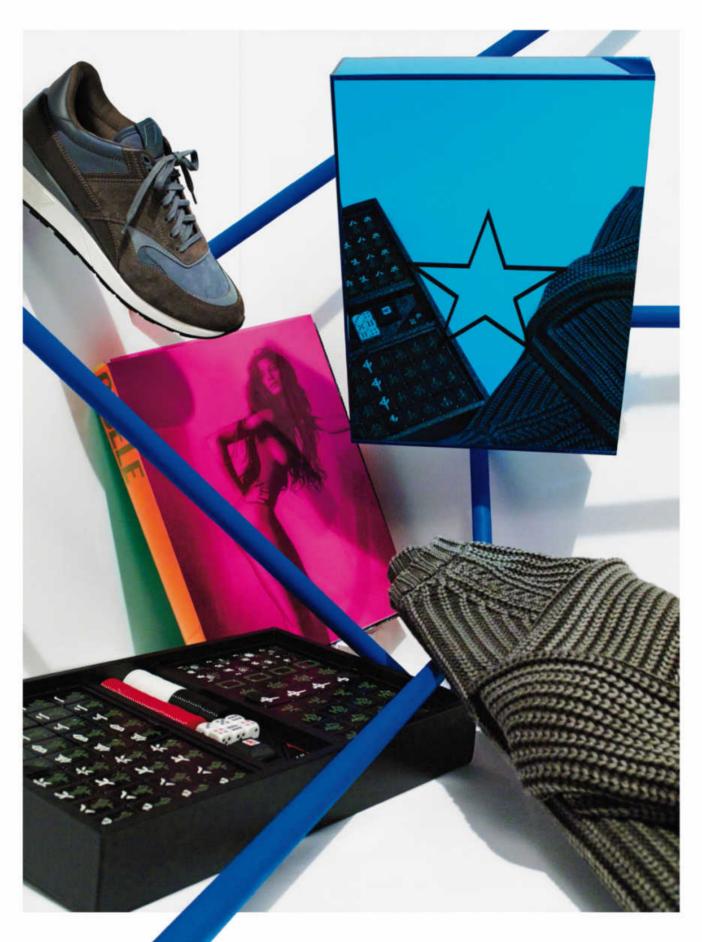
## After being released from an Austrian prison, convicted killer Johann "Jack" Unterweger travels to California to write an article on American crime, checking into the Cecil. While in L.A. he murders three prostitutes.

## **JANUARY 2013**

Elisa Lam checks into the Cecil. Three weeks later her dead body is found floating in a rooftop water tank The body of an unidentified male is found outside the hotel, dead from an apparent fall from several stories up.

**JUNE 2015** 





Sneakers (\$395) by **Z Zegna**. Gisele Bündchen (\$700) from **Taschen**. Sweater (\$525) by **Tod's**. Mahjong game set (\$2,650) by **Prada**.









Plates (\$550 for a set of six) by **Bernardaud**. Suit (\$7,575) by **Brioni**. Scarf (\$395) by **Abasi Rosborough x VOZ**. Blanket (\$1,000) by **Ralph Lauren Home**. Boots (\$485) by **Grenson**. Tote (\$1,395) by **Bally**.





## Why You're **Hearing About It**

Open relationships have shed their swinging-sixties caricature, gaining acceptance from a new generation who views traditional marriage as antiquated and believes in more fluidity around sex. Between 1.2 million and 2.4 million Americans have tried some form of nonmonogamy, according to Psychology Today, and the media has eagerly given these adherents a platform, with stories in magazines and on TV shows (Showtime's Polyamory: Married

## & Dating).

## The Big Promise

Um, do we really have to say it? Of course, practitioners argue that sexual freedom is secondary to the personal growth that comes from negotiating multiple emotional connections (suuuuure it is). While polyamory is just beginning to be studied, some of those "in the lifestyle" report that they are happier, have better sex, and are better communicators than they would be if they were monogamous.

## How It Works

Open relationships. nonmonogamy, and polyamory can mean different things. In general, the phrases open relationships and nonmonogamy are used interchangeably: they signal that you can have sex outside of your primary partnership. Polyamory is more all-encompassing, allowing for sexual and longer-term attachments with more than just one person, with the possibility that you'd bring outsiders into the fold.

## The Opposition

"People who have ventured into this arrangement often don't spell out their expectations clearly enough, and when you open Pandora's box, you experience all sorts of emotions You might want to shut the door, but you can't. Or you do spell out your expectations but can't anticipate the permutations that occur." --Michele Weiner-Davis, marriage therapist and author of The Sex-Starved Marriage

## What the **Experts Say**

"I love that this lifestyle makes it possible to have connections with people I would never dream of sharing a mortgage with." -Dossie Easton, nonmonogamist, therapist, and coauthor of the original free-love hible. The Ethical Slut

## The Real-World Acolyte

"Say you enjoy more aggressive, energetic sex, and your partner wants slower, more intimate sex. You're always going to be at odds. But if your primary partner has someone who meets their needs, everyone mellows out." -Trevor Pitts, 33, from Eugene, Oregon,

who is in a nonmo-

nogamous marriage

## Back to the **Experts**

"If you don't like talking about your feelings and the feelings of other people, you probably don't want to be in an open relationship. It requires a level of communication that's deep and intense and ongoing. Everyone thinks it's all this sex; really, it's all this talking. You're constantly evaluating what love means to you, what sex has to do with love, what your desires are, and what the other person's desires are." —Tristan Taormino, author of Opening Up: A Guide to Creating and Sustaining Open Relationships

## The Bottom Line

If nonmonogamy is something you and your significant other have a mutual interest in not just something you bring up while she rolls her eyes—then maybe three's company. Start by reading books like More Than Two by Franklin Veaux and Eve Rickert and checking out apps like 3nder. If you try nonmonogamy and like it, the Poly Life app helps you keep track of who's doing whom.

## **PILLOW TALK**

Ready to be more open? Here, a glossary of terms to brush up on before you get down.

## COMPERSION:

Feeling pleased by the pleasure your girlfriend experiences with her other boyfriend/girlfriend

## CONSTELLATION:

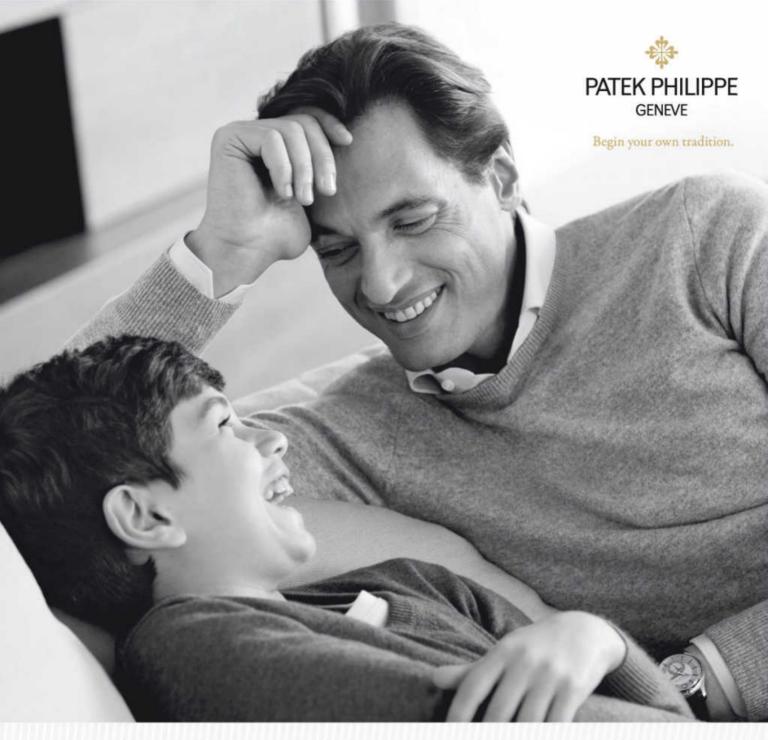
A polyamorous relationship with more than four partners

**METAMOUR: Your** partner's other partner, vis-à-vis you (your wife's boyfriend is your metamour)

V: A three-person arrangement in which one is the "hinge" (you might be the hinge between vour wife and your girlfriend, but they wouldn't have sex)

## ALL IN THE DETAILS

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